UNIFORMS OF THE SS

VOLUME 1
ALLGEMEINE-SS 1923-1945

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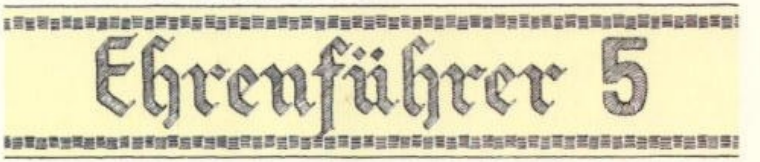
See Plate 11, page 45

See Plates 13 & 14, pages 50 & 51



UNIFORMS OF THE SS

VOLUME 1
ALLGEMEINE-SS 1923-1945

Andrew Mollo

Windrow & Greene

Publisher's note:

For technical reasons it has not proved possible to reproduce certain of the illustrations in this edition in their original colours. All items illustrated may be assumed to be in black and white or silver unless otherwise described in the captions, which have been revised in such cases. Representative examples of such items have been illustrated in additional colour presentations on the end-papers.

Fourth edition
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Designed and illustrated by Malcolm McGregor

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FOREWORD TO THE FOURTH EDITION

Since the original seven-volume series went out of print I have received frequent requests from around the world for volumes to complete what has now become a desirable collectors' item and bibliophilic rarity. So I am delighted that Martin Windrow, long associated with the very best in military publishing, has decided to make available this series to a new generation of readers interested in the history and heraldry of the SS.

I have kept a record of new information as it has become available, and have noted errors which have come to light as a result of new research or the appearance of a hitherto unknown badge; and I am pleased that this new information has not in any way devalued this or the other volumes in the series. Factual errors are few, and are corrected on p.75 of this edition. As before, I would be delighted to hear from anyone who may have an item in their collection, a photograph, or a document which they think might contribute to the comprehensiveness of future editions of this series.

Notes on the illustrations:

During the preparation of this first volume in the 1960s, very few of the insignia illustrated were known to have survived; and it was decided to use line illustrations throughout. Rather than to attempt to show early examples of insignia which varied greatly in design, manufacture and quality I chose to base the drawings on the later patterns as standardized by the Reichszeugmeisterei. This has led to a number of anachronisms, such as the style of numerals on early collar patches and armbands. Some drawings were reconstructed from available reference material, while others were the result of pure conjecture. Thirty years on, actual examples of most of these insignia, as well as hitherto unknown pieces, have found their way into private collections; and in nearly all cases have confirmed the accuracy of the line drawings.

In one sense I am pleased that while assisting the collector to identify SS insignia, the drawings have not provided foolproof blueprints for the faker. When a steel helmet bearing rare SS decals appeared on the market some years ago a quick check revealed that the decals were identical in size to illustrations in Volume 3 of this series. These dimensions were speculative, however, since no original examples were then known to exist. Not long after the appearance of Volume 1 a number of SS trumpet banners based on the illustrations on p.67 began to be advertised for sale: they were identical—despite the fact that the drawings had been reconstructed from a blurred illustration which appeared in a 1936 issue of the FM-Zeitschrift. I have been reluctant to include illustrations of issue and makers' marks for the same reason, but where I have done so they have not been reproduced in their original size.

Not only have Malcolm McGregor's line drawings been used to make copies of SS badges; but he has been paid the ultimate compliment of having his drawings frequently reproduced in other books on the subject, usually without permission or acknowledgement.

As in previous editions, I would like to record my gratitude for their considerable help during the preparation of this volume to the late Colonel C. M. Dodkins CBE, DSO, to Hugh Page Taylor, and to the Wiener Library, London. Hugh Page Taylor, David Littlejohn, Philip Buss and F. Ollenschläger also brought to my attention a number of omissions and mistakes in earlier editions which have now been corrected.

Andrew Mollo
London
February 1991

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HISTORY OF THE GENERAL SS

In the early days of Nazism, Hitler was surrounded by the unwieldy SA. He realised the necessity of organising a more dedicated elite personal guard. This guard should not be large, but it had to consist of men of proven calibre, of Nordic blood, and of good character.

They had to act as bodyguard and spearhead. They had to protect both himself and important members of his party while they travelled around Germany furthering the cause of Nazism.

In March 1923 the embryo SS consisted of just two men, Joseph Berchtold and Julius Schreck who called themselves the STABSWACHE (Staff Guard)1. Two months later a new unit the STOSSTRUPP ADOLF HITLER (Adolf Hitler Shock Troop) was formed and commanded by Joseph Berchtold 2.

After the abortive putsch of the 9th November 1923, in which a number of Nazis were killed, Hitler was imprisoned and the NSDAP banned.

Hitler, looking back on the period immediately after his release from Landsberg in December 1924, described the early days of the SS.3.

> "Being convinced that there are always circumstances in which elite troops are called for, I created in 1922-23 the 'Adolf Hitler Shock Troops'. They were made up of men who were ready for revolution and knew that some day things would come to hard knocks. When I came out of Landsberg everything was broken up and scattered in sometimes rival bands. I told myself then that I needed a bodyguard, even a restricted one, but made up of men who would be enlisted without conditions, even to march against their own brothers, only twenty men to a city (on condition that one could count on them absolutely) rather than a dubious mass. It was Maurice, Schreck, and Heiden who formed in Munich the first group of toughs, and were thus the origin of the SS; but it was with Himmler that the SS became an extraordinary body of men, devoted to an ideal, loyal to death".

In April 1925, Hitler ordered his chauffeur and personal bodyguard Julius Schreck, to raise a new shock troop. A few weeks later it was named the SCHUTZSTAFFEL or Protection Squad or SS.4. The new SS was to be organised on a national basis. Each major city was called upon to provide one leader and ten of its best men.5.

When Heinrich Himmler was made Reichsführer-SS with the rank of SS-Oberführer in January 1929, the SS was under the overall command of the SA, and numbered less than 280 men.6. By 1930 the SS numbered 2727 men.7. In June 1932, when Bruening's decree banned the SA, the SS had grown to 30,000 or approximately 10% of the SA.8. On the 30th January Hitler became Chancellor and the SS had secretly recruited 52,000 more members.9.

The assassination on June 30th 1934 of the Chief-of-Staff of the SA, Ernst Röhm, and the decree of the 26th July that recognised the part the SS had played in the purging of the SA, and promoted it to the status of an independent organisation within the NSDAP, was the turning point in the struggle for supremacy over the SA.10.

Himmler set about implementing his theories of a racially and ideologically elite force, and the SS entered its second phase of rapid expansion. By the outbreak of the second World War the ALLGEMEINE-SS (General SS) numbered some 240,000 part-time members who were kept in readiness in case of internal strife by a small regular staff.11. Members of the General SS were called up for service in the Armed Forces or Armed SS to such an extent that many General SS units survived in name only. Towards the end of the war the General SS barely exceeded 40,000 men.12., most of whom were staff and officials of the Reichsführung-SS and the Main offices.

1 Der Orden unter dem Totenkopf. p 23
2 Der Orden unter dem Totenkopf. p 24
3 Hitler's table talk.p
4 Der Orden unter dem Totenkopf. p 27
5 Der Orden unter dem Totenkopf. p 28
6 Die SS. pp 7 & 8
7 Der Orden unter dem Totenkopf. p 57
8 Uniformen der Braunhemden. p 80
9 Die SS. p 12
10 The Waffen SS. pp 12 & 13
11 Die SS. p 18
12 The Waffen SS. pp 12 & 13

DER WERDEGANG ZUM SS-MANN
How one became an SS man

After establishing his SS suitability and fitness, a Hitler Youth became an SS-Bewerber (Applicant) at the age of 18. On the Reich's Party Day of the same year he was accepted as an SS-Anwärter (Candidate) and given an SS identity card. After a short probationary period he took the oath of allegiance to Adolf Hitler.

As an SS Candidate, and during his first year's service, he was expected to win both the SA-Wehrabzeichen (SA Military Badge) and the Deutsche Reichsportabzeichen (Sports Badge in Bronze). At the age of 19 or 19½ depending on when his age group was called, he went into the Labour Service and then into the Armed Forces.

If after two years he decided not to remain in the Armed Forces as a non-commissioned officer candidate or as a regular, he returned to the SS, still as a candidate. Before final acceptance in the SS he was given special philosophical training, being thoroughly instructed in the principles of the SS, especially the marriage order and code of honour of the SS. On the 9th November, after his return from the Armed Forces, and subject to fulfilling all the special requirements, the SS candidate was finally accepted as an SS man. On the 9th November he was given the right to wear the SS dagger, and vowed at this ceremony, that he and his relations would for ever observe the basic laws of the SS. From that day on it was his right and duty, as was law in the SS, to defend his honour, according to the code of honour of the Black Corps. As an SS man he remained in the active General SS until he was 35 years of age, when upon application he was placed on the SS Reserve. When he was 45 years of age he passed into the Stammabteilung.1.

1. Die SS. pp 18 & 19

Page 3

1925 The "Stosstrupp Adolf Hitler" in Munich. The commander Joseph Berchtold is on the right of the top row. As a standard they carry the war flag of the Imperial German Navy.

Page 4

1925, Hitler with the first four SS men. Left to right. Schaub, Schreck, Maurer (Maurice ?) and Schneider. This photograph was probably taken in the autumn of 1925. They are wearing black caps with cocade and skull, brown shirt with metallic buttons and NSDAP brassard edged with black, black tie on which is pinned a very small NSDAP members badge, brown or light khaki breeches, and Leather belts of civilian pattern. Leather lace-up boots and gaiters, or field grey puttees complete the uniform.

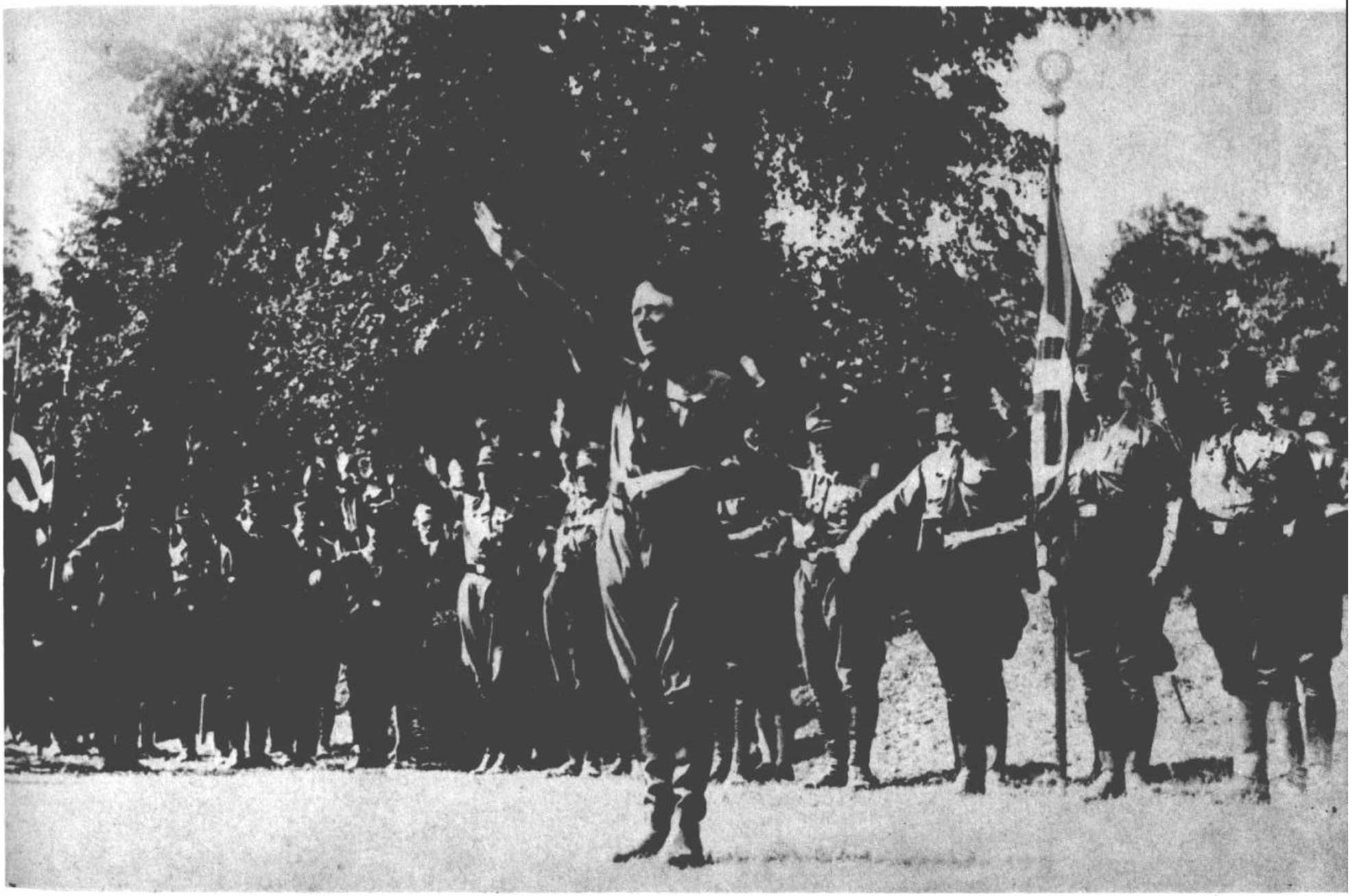
Page 5

1929. The uniform had reached a high level of standardisation at the 4th Reich Party Day held at Weimar in August 1929. The black cap now has the national emblem above the skull. Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler (far right) has silver piping on his cap. Truppführer Grimminger carrying the 'Blood Flag' wears the SA Cornet's gorget. The figure on the right wears adjutant's collar patches. The SS man (4th from left) wears an early type of Nazi belt buckle. At this time the SS normally wore the same pattern buckle as the SA.

Page 6

1929. Hitler with his bodyguard. Left to right. Graf, Hess, Schaub and Hitler with Steinbinder driving. Hess has silver piping on his cap which was worn by senior leaders only. His shirt collar and patches are edged in silver cord, and he wears adjutant's emblems on his collar patches. The collar patches worn by Maurer and Schaub have no apparent function, other than a purely decorative one. The figure speaking to Hitler (possibly Christian Weber) wears the early leader's brassard with gilt or silver twisted cord stripes to denote rank.

STOSSTRUPP-HITLER
MÜNCHEN



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THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SS UNIFORM

1921-1922	Red NSDAP brassard with white circle and black swastika was worn on civilian dress and the old army uniforms of ex-soldiers and members of numerous pro-Nazi Free Corps.
1922-1923	NSDAP banned.
February 1923	With the re-organisation of the NSDAP, an attempt was made to standardise the clothing of the SA. Its members were ordered to wear field grey breeches, grey wind-jackets, and the forerunner of the SA cap, a grey ski cap with the black, white and red national cockade in front.
May 1923	The Adolf Hitler Shock Troop was formed, and wore army uniforms, NSDAP brassard, and grey ski cap with national cockade above a white metal skull badge.
November 1925	Brown adopted as the colour of the SA uniform. The newly formed SS wore black caps, ties and edging to the brassard.
September 1925	SS Musterbefehl der SS Oberleitung dated 29.9.25, ordered that in future the skull will be worn above the cockade on the cap.
August 1929	Coloured cap bands and collar patches with unit numbering introduced for the SA. By this date the SS uniform had become reasonably standardised.
June-Sept 1930	Brown shirt banned in certain states.
1931	SS awarded their motto MEINE EHRE HEISST TREUE. (My honour is loyalty).
April to June 1932	NSDAP uniform banned throughout Germany.
May 1932	Introduction of new badges of rank.
July 1934	First SS dress regulations published.

THE TRADITIONAL UNIFORM

The name given to the SS brown shirt uniform after the introduction in 1932 of the new black service uniform. By 1932 the Traditional Uniform had become reasonably standardised although there were still variations in the colour of both shirts and breeches. During 1933 senior regular SS leaders were equipping themselves with the new black uniform while the part-time rank and file continued to wear the brown shirt. During the summer of 1935 the brown shirt was worn as a summer uniform for the last time, and by 1936 the black uniform had been issued to the whole SS. During the transitional period it was not uncommon to see items of the old and new uniforms being worn together.

DIENSTMÜTZE

Service cap

Black cloth cap with matching cloth or Black leather peak. Black leather chin strap for all ranks. Twisted cord around the crown of the cap according to rank:

Untersturmführer up to and incl. Standartenführer; Black and silver or Black and white twisted cord.

Oberführer up to and incl. Reichsführer-SS, Silver twisted cord.

DIENSTBLUSE

Shirt

Brown cotton drill shirt with four black leather and two horn buttons down the front. Two parallel breast pockets with pleats and buttoned flaps. Cuffs linked with two black leather buttons. Six metal belt hooks attached to the waistband. Stand and fall collar edged in twisted cord according to rank.

SS-Mann up to and incl. Obertruppführer; 2mm black and white (later black and aluminium) twisted cord.

SS-Sturmführer up to and incl. SS-Sturmhauptführer (Later Hauptsturmführer). 2mm black and aluminium twisted cord.

SS-Sturmbannführer up to and incl. Reichsführer-SS; 2mm aluminium twisted cord.

ABZEICHEN

Insignia

All insignia worn on the shirt was subsequently worn on the black service uniform, and is described in the section dealing with insignia. There were however two pieces of insignia, that appear to have been worn on the shirt, and not on the black uniform. The first was a white linen brassard with HILFS-POLIZEI printed on it in black letters. This was worn by SA and SS men, instead of their NSDAP brassard, when serving as auxiliary police in 1933 1 The second was a circular white badge 8.5mm in diameter on which was a red cross. This badge was worn by medical orderlies who had not passed the State Medical examination. It was worn on the upper left arm above the brassard. 2. The rest of the uniform consisted of black breeches and boots, black leather waist belt and cross strap with nickel plated buckles and fittings. The equipment was the Imperial German army pattern, and consisted of pack, ground sheet, water bottle, drinking cup, mess tin, and bread bag.

1. Das Dritte Reich. Vol. 1. p 425
2. VOBL. der OSAF. Nr.2., 10.6.31., Ziff. 9.

THE BLACK SS SERVICE UNIFORM

Introduced in 1932 with the first SA and SS dress regulations.1. For a short time the black uniform was worn concurrently with the Traditional uniform. The cut of the black uniform was the same for all ranks, but the quality of the cloth of leaders uniforms was superior. Leaders often had their uniforms privately made, which accounts for detailed variations in quality and cut. After the setting up of the Reichszeugmeisterei (Quarter Master General) a remarkable degree of standardisation was achieved. However impressive the black uniform looked, it was not suited to the increasingly varied roles that the SS was called upon to play. As early as 1935 certain SS units were issued with grey uniforms identical in cut to the black ones.2. After the outbreak of war black uniforms were seldom worn.

1. Die Uniformen der Braunhemden. pp. 4 & 5
2. Das Schwarze Korps. No. 10.8.5.35. p 4

An SS auxilliary policeman, in March 1933. As SS men had not been issued with overcoats at this date, they were lent police ones, stripped of insignia.

(London and Wide World — Brian Davis collection)

SS SERVICE DRESS LIST. 15.12.34..1.

SS Service tunic.	Black twill
SS Service tunic.	Black cloth
SS Service tunic.	Black gabardine
SS Service tunic.	Earth grey drill
SS Breeches	Black twill
SS Breeches.	Black cloth
SS Breeches.	Black gabardine
SS Breeches*.	Black twill
SS Breeches*.	Black cloth
SS Breeches*.	Black gabardine
SS Breeches*.	Black corduroy
SS Breeches*.	Earth grey drill
SS Trousers.	Black twill
SS Trousers.	Black cloth
SS Trousers.	Earth grey drill
SS Overcoat	Black twill
SS Overcoat.	Black cloth
SS Weatherproof cape.	Black
Pouch for weatherproof cape.	Black
Overcoat lapels.	Silver grey cloth for Oberführer and above.

* Are described in the original German as Stiefelhose as opposed to breeches. The difference was that breeches had a more pronounced curve on the outer seam and were not so hard wearing.

1. SS Preisliste No. 1. 15.12.34. p 13

SS-DIENSTROCK
SS Service Tunic

Incl. SS Service tunic in black twill or gabardine for leaders.
SS Service tunic in black uniform cloth for men.
SS Service tunic in earth grey drill for all ranks.

Open single breasted tunic with four matt silver buttons in front. Two parallel breast pockets with centre pleats and buttoned flaps. Slanting slash side pockets with buttoned flaps. Single back vent with two matt silver buttons. Open collar edged in twisted cord according to rank. Turn back cuffs. All insignia was worn on the tunic.

SS-BREECHESHOSE (UND STIEFELHOSE)
SS Breeches

Incl. SS Breeches in black twill or gabardine for leaders.
SS Breeches in black cloth or corduroy for men.
SS Breeches in earth grey drill for all ranks.

Black cloth breeches with lace-up legs. Two front pockets, two back, and a watch pocket. Front and back pockets fastened with black plastic buttons

SS-HOSE, LANG
SS Trousers

Incl. SS Trousers in black twill for leaders.
SS Trousers in black cloth for men.
SS Trousers in earth drey drill for all ranks.

Long black trousers with white piping down the outside leg seam. Two side and two back pockets fastened with black plastic buttons. Black trousers were fastened under the instep with a leather strap. Earth grey drill trousers were not piped and had grey plastic buttons.

SS-DIENSTMANTEL
SS Service Overcoat

Incl. SS Overcoat in black twill for leaders.
SS Overcoat in black cloth for men.

Double breasted overcoat with two parallel rows of six matt silver buttons down the front. Two slanting side pockets with flaps. Collar edged in twisted cord according to rank. Leaders with the rank of SS-Oberführer and above had silver grey lapels and piping down the front of the coat. All insignia was worn on the overcoat.

SS Man in service dress.

SS Man in winter service dress with field cap.

SS Leader in walking-out dress.

Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler and members of his personal staff in winter service dress. Winter 1937.

SS-WETTERSCHUTZ UMHANG
SS Weatherproof Cape

Introduced in 1934.1. for wear over the service uniform. Made from a black synthetic rubberised fabric, it had three matt silver buttons down the front, and slits instead of sleeves. When not worn, it was carried in a small pouch made from the same fabric, from the service belt.

1. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 18. 29.9.34. p 4.

SS UNDRESS UNIFORMS

SS-WEISSER ROCK
SS White tunic

Introduced on the 27th June 1939.1, as a leaders walking-out dress, although worn by both leaders and non-commissioned leaders prior to that date. The white linen tunic was identical in cut to the black one, and could be worn between the 1st of April and the 30th of September, with white shirt, black tie, and sometimes with white topped peaked cap, white linen trousers and white shoes. The only badges supposed to have been worn on this tunic, were shoulder cords, collar patches and arm-band.

1. Uniformen-Markt, 1939, No. 15, p 229.

SS-REGENMANTEL
SS Rain coat

Made from a black rubberised fabric, and worn by leaders only. Identical in cut to the overcoat, it had a black cloth collar edged in aluminium twisted cord. The only badges supposed to have been worn on the raincoat were shoulder cords and collar patches.1.

1. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP, 1940. p148.

SS-LEDERMANTEL
SS Leather overcoat

Identical to the cloth overcoat but made of black leather. It had either a black cloth or leather collar edged in twisted aluminium cord. Leaders with the rank of SS-Oberführer and above had silver grey lapels.

SS-UMHANG
SS Cloak

Black cloth cape introduced in 1934 for all ranks.1. Fastened in front with four matt silver buttons. Collar edged in twisted cord according to rank. Collar patches were the only badges worn on the cape.

1. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 4.23.6.34. p 5 Organisationsbuch der NSDAP,1940. p433 & pl. 48.

SS-GESELLSCHAFTSANZUG
SS Mess Dress

Double breasted black tunic with wide lapels and two parallel rows of three matt silver buttons down the front. Lapels, front and bottom of tunic piped in white. Open collar edged in twisted cord according to rank. Leaders with the rank of SS-Oberführer and above had silver grey lapels. Turn back cuffs piped in white. Two slanting side pockets. Tunic was worn with collar patches, armband and SS version of the national emblem instead of the NSDAP brassard. It was worn with long trousers and elastic sided boots with dancing spurs, brown shirt and black tie.1.

SS-GROSSER GESELLSCHAFTSANZUG
SS Evening Dress

Short black jacket with black silk lapels. Six 20 mm matt silver buttons in front. Jacket could be fastened with two matt silver linked buttons. Collar and cuffs edged in 2mm, and NSDAP brassard edged in 3 mm twisted aluminium cord. All insignia, including white metal breast badge, aluminium cord aiguillette, and two shoulder cords were worn on this jacket.

It was worn with white linen waistcoat with lapels and either three or four 14 mm matt silver buttons in front. All buttons were of special design, incorporating the SS runes with oakleaf surround.

White evening dress shirt, winged collar and bow-tie.

For less formal occasions a black waistcoat and bow tie were worn instead of the white one.

Long black trousers piped in white with a 2.2 cm aluminium braid stripe on each side of the piping.

Long black cape with white metal clasps and chain, and embroidered national emblem 17.5 mm wide, which was worn on the left side.1.

1. Schutzstaffel der NSDAP. Kleiderkasse Preisliste. Gültig ab 1. November 1940. pp14 & 15.

Formal evening dress for SS Leaders.

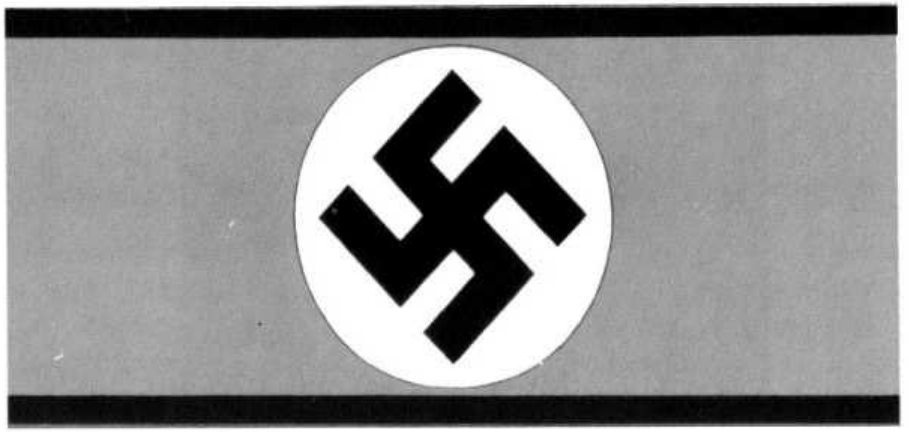
SS Mess dress.

SS COLLAR CORD

SS-Mann up to and incl. SS-Obertruppführer. 2 mm black and white twisted cord.
SS-Sturmführer up to and incl. SS-Sturmhauptführer, 2 mm aluminium and black twisted cord.
SS-Sturmbannführer up to and incl. SS-Obergruppenführer, 2 mm aluminium twisted cord.1.
In October 1934 the system was modified as follows:
SS-Bewerber up to and incl. SS-Stabsscharführer, 2 mm black and aluminium twisted cord.
SS-Untersturmführer and above, 2 mm aluminium twisted cord. 2.

1. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 4, 23.6.34,p 6.
2. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 25,17.11.34. p 6.

SS-KAMPFBINDE
SS Brassard



SS-Kampfbinde (Brassard) worn on the upper left arm of all black SS service uniforms: see rear endpaper.

A member of the crack 7th SS Cavalry Regiment (Plauen, later Berlin) in summer walking-out dress. (Hugh Page Taylor collection.)

SS HEADDRESS LIST. 22.12.34. 1.

SS Service cap, for SS men up to and incl. SS-Hauptscharführer.
SS Service cap, special quality, for SS men up to and incl. SS-Hauptscharführer.
SS Leaders cap, for SS-Untersturmführer up to and incl. SS-Standartenführer.
SS Leaders cap, special quality, for SS-Untersturmführer up to and incl. SS-Standartenführer.
SS Senior leaders cap, special quality, for SS-Oberführer up to and incl. SS-Obergruppenführer.
SS Service cap, old pattern (kepi).
SS Field cap without peak, earth grey.
SS Ear covers.

SS-DIENSTMÜTZEN

SS Service peaked cap

The first pattern introduced in 1932 was soft and rather insignificant looking. and only gradually took on its characteristically high front. The three illustrations on page 16 are chosen to show this transition.

1. Man's cap actually dated 1934.
2. Man's cap about 1935-36.
3. Leader's cap of standard pattern, with regulation cap badges.

Black cloth cap with white piping. Leaders had a black velvet band and aluminium cap cords. Non-commissioned leaders and men had black cloth band, black leather chin strap and black fibre peak. In June 1934 it was announced that leaders with the rank of SS-Oberführer and above, would in future have aluminium piping. 2.

SS-FELDMÜTZEN

SS Field caps

The SS had a number of unofficial field caps which were worn until a standard pattern was introduced in the summer of 1934.3. Two unofficial patterns were in use during the 1934 Reich Party Day.4. The first was a round black peakless cap, similar in cut to the Imperial army field cap. It had white piping around the crown and top of the band. 1st pattern metal cap badges were worn in front. The second was a black side cap, with a white metal skull on the left side. The 1934 pattern was an earth grey side cap with white metal button in front, and a white silk embroidered eagle on earth grey triangular cloth base, which was worn on the left side of the cap. The cap was the same for all ranks. 5 Later the cap was produced in black cloth with the same badges, the eagle being embroidered on a black cloth base.

SS-STAHLHELME

SS Steel helmets

The 1916 model steel helmet painted black was issued to the General SS for special occasions, such as parades and rallies.

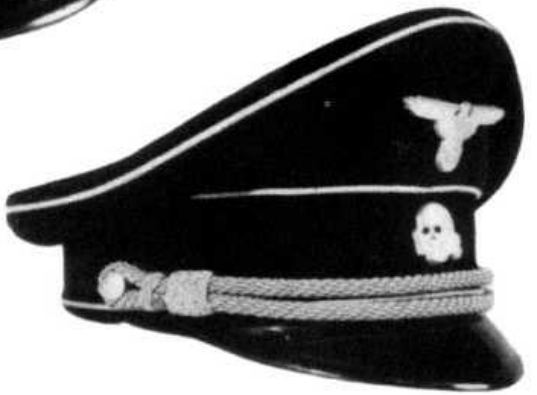
1. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 30,22.12.34. p 9.
2. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 4,23.6.34. p 5.
3. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 3,16.6.34. p 7.
4. Hinter den Kulissen der Reichsparteitag films. p 46.
5. SS Preisliste, April, 1939. p 2.

Label found inside issue SS peaked caps.

Label found inside issue SS field caps.

1

SS peaked caps



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2

Top. 2nd pattern SS field cap badges.
Bottom. 3rd pattern SS field cap badges.

THE FIELD-GREY FIELD SERVICE UNIFORM

Certain units had been issued with a field-grey* uniform for field work as early as 1935.1, but it was officially introduced in November 1935.1a This uniform was identical in cut to the black one, but was worn without the NSDAP brassard. In 1936 the SS version of the national emblem was introduced, and was worn on the upper left sleeve of the tunic and overcoat.2. In 1938 two shoulder cords began to be worn, instead of one. Prior to the introduction of field-grey peaked caps, in March 1937.3. black ones were worn with field-grey uniform.

THE FIELD-GREY SERVICE UNIFORM

Introduced in 1938 to replace the black uniform as a service dress for members of the General SS. It was identical in cut to the black uniform, but was worn with the national emblem instead of the NSDAP brassard, and with two shoulder cords, instead of one.

1. Das Schwarze Korps. No. 10.8.5.35. p 4.
1a. SS-Befehlsblatt., 25.11.35.
2. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 11,23.5.36. p 205.
3. SS-Befehlsblatt., 25.3.37.

* Some confusion exists as to the exact colour of the first grey SS uniforms. The Germans referred to the colour as erdgrau or earth-grey, but as far as can be ascertained it differed little from the later SS Feldgrau or field-grey, which was identical to the colour of army uniforms.

SS-Oberführer Wimmer of Himmler's personal staff wearing regulation Allgemeine-SS field grey service uniform. *(Dodkins collection.)*

VOLKISCHER BEOBACHTER
Hafenstadt Antwerpen gefallen!

SS-FUSSBEKLEIDUNG.1.

SS Footwear

SS Marching boots, black, handsewn.
SS Walking -out boots, black.
SS Elastic-sided boots, boxcalf, black.
SS Infantry boots, half length, natural brown.
SS Working lace-up boots, natural brown.
Ski boots, brown.
Mountain boots.
Sports shoes, leather, brown.
SS Sports shoes, leather, brown.
SS House shoes, leather, black.
SS Socks, grey, wool.
SS Foot cloths.
SS Knee pads.

Active SS leaders with the rank of SS-Oberführer and above wore spurs with service uniform.
Strap-on spurs were worn with high boots, and screw-on spurs with elastic-sided boots. So called "dancing spurs" were forbidden.2.

Non-commissioned members of the staff of the SS-Hauptamt on the Western front in 1940. The SS-Scharführer tuning the radio is the only one wearing regulation Allgemeine-SS field grey uniform.
(National Archives, Washington)

Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler and SS-Gruppenführer Reinhard Heydrich wearing regulation field grey overcoats. Vienna, March 1938.
(Keystone)

SS-HANDBEKLEIDUNG.3.

SS Gloves

SS Suede gloves, white.
SS Suede gloves, grey
SS Cloth gloves, white.
SS Cloth gloves, grey.
SS Woollen gloves, grey green.
SS Motorcycle gloves, leather, lined.
SS Standard-bearer's gloves, buckskin, white.
SS Wrist warmers, knitted.

SS-UNTERKLEIDUNG.4.

SS Underwear

SS Shirt, poplin, with cuffs and two collars, brown.
SS Shirt, Tricot with attached collar and band.
SS Service shirt, with leather buttons, brown.
SS Summer vest.
SS Winter vest.
SS Summer under pants.
SS Winter under pants.
SS Waist belt.
SS Collar, single for SS poplin shirt.
SS Collar, single for SS shirt.
SS Silk tie, black.
SS Neck band, brown.
SS Pullover, black, wool.
SS Braces.

In 1934 Himmler ordered that in future it was forbidden to wear different coloured shirts, especially 'superior' silk shirts, instead of the regulation brown shirt.5.

1. SS-Preisliste No. 1.,15.12.34. p 13.
2. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 4.23.6.34. p 5.
3.4. SS-Preisliste No. 1.,15.12.34., p 13.
5. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 4.,23.6.34. p 6.

SS-DIENSTGRADABZEICHEN
SS Badges of rank

Although various patterns of rank badge had been in use since 1929, it was not until 1933 that the system of ranks and rank badges was formalised.
On the 19th May 1933 the nine ranks, Mann, Scharführer, Truppführer, Sturmführer, Sturmbannführer, Standartenführer, Oberführer, Gruppenführer and Obergruppenführer were increased to seventeen by addition of the ranks Oberscharführer, Obertruppführer, Obersturmführer, Sturmhauptführer and Obersturmbannführer, and the new ranks, Sturmmann, Rottenführer and Brigadeführer.1.
In August 1934 new badges of rank were introduced for Stabschef der SA, and Reichsführer-SS.2.
In October 1934 new ranks of Unterscharführer and Untersturmführer were introduced, and Trupp-Obertrupp- and Haupttruppführer were replaced by Haupt-and Stabsscharführer.3.
Badges of rank remained unaltered until 1942, when a new pattern of oakleaf emblem was introduced for Ober-Brigade-Gruppen-and Obergruppenführer, and the new rank of Oberstgruppenführer.4.

SS-KRAGENSPIEGEL
SS Collar patches

Collar patches were used to denote the rank and unit of the wearer. The unit designation was worn on the right, and the badge of rank on the left collar patch. Leaders with the rank of SS-Standartenführer and above wore their badge of rank on both collar patches, as did SS administrative officials.5. Collar patches were made of cloth for all ranks up to and incl. SS-Obersturmbannführer. SS-Standartenführer and above had velvet collar patches. Braid and stars were matt aluminium for all ranks. Members of SS-Stammabteilungen had bronzed stars and black braid with silver stripe.6. The twisted cord edging differed according to rank.
SS-Mann up to and incl. SS-Obertruppführer, 1.5 mm white twisted cord.
SS-Sturmführer up to and incl. SS-Sturmhauptführer, 1.5 mm black and aluminium twisted cord.
SS-Sturmbannführer up to and incl. Obergruppenführer, 1.5 mm aluminium twisted cord.7.
In October 1934 a simpler system was adopted.8.
SS-Anwärter up to and incl. SS-Stabsscharführer, 1.5 mm black and aluminium twisted cord.
SS-Untersturmführer up to and incl. Reichsführer-SS, 1.5 mm aluminium twisted cord.
The probationary rank of SS-Bewerber did not wear collar patches.9.
All collar patch emblems were embroidered in white silk for all ranks up to and incl. SS-Stabsscharführer, and aluminium wire for all commissioned ranks.10.

1. Die Uniformen der Braunhemden.p 6.
2. Die Deutsche Wehrmacht 1934-1945. Sheet 30.p 7.
3. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 25,17.11.34.p 7.
4. Die Waffen-SS.p 490.
5. Die Uniformen der Braunhemden.pp 56 and 57
6. SS Preisliste, April 1939.pp 5 & 10.
7. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 4,23.6.34.p 6.
8. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 27,1.12.34.p 5.
9. Die Orden unter dem Totenkopf.p 138.
10. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 4,23.6.34.p 6.

SS-DIENSTGRADE
SS Ranks

May 1933 to Sept. 1934.1.	From 15.10.34.2.
	SS-Bewerber*
SS-Anwärter**	SS-Anwärter**
1 SS-Mann	1 SS-Mann
2 SS-Sturmmann	2 SS-Sturmmann
3 SS-Rottenführer	3 SS-Rottenführer
4 SS-Scharführer	4 SS-Unterscharführer
5 SS-Oberscharführer	5 SS-Scharführer
6 SS-Truppführer	6 SS-Oberscharführer
7 SS-Obertruppführer	7 SS-Hauptscharführer
SS-Haupttruppführer	SS-Stabsscharführer***
	8 SS-Sturmscharführer****
9 SS-Sturmführer	9 SS-Untersturmführer
10 SS-Obersturmführer	10 SS-Obersturmführer
11 SS-Sturmhauptführer	11 SS-Hauptsturmführer
12 SS-Sturmbannführer	12 SS-Sturmbannführer
13 SS-Obersturmbannführer	13 SS-Obersturmbannführer
14 SS-Standartenführer	14 SS-Standartenführer
15 SS-Oberführer	15 SS-Oberführer
16 SS-Brigadeführer	16 SS-Brigadeführer
17 SS-Gruppenführer	17 SS-Gruppenführer
18 SS-Obergruppenführer	18 SS-Obergruppenführer
	19 Reichsführer-SS

* SS-Bewerber wore no collar patches.

** SS-Anwärter wore collar patches without cord edging as from 25.11.34.

*** SS-Stabsscharführer was an appointment not a rank, and he wore the badges of rank of either an SS-Hauptscharführer or SS-Sturmscharführer, but with a chevron (Plate 3, No. 6) on the lower right sleeve from 15.10.34.

**** The rank of SS-Sturmscharführer was introduced for the whole SS in 1938/39.

SS ACHSELSTÜCKE
SS Shoulder cords

Shoulder cords introduced in May 1933, were worn on the right shoulder only and denoted the rank group of the wearer. In 1938 shoulder cords began to be worn on both shoulders on the field grey service uniform of the General SS. Shoulder cords for SS men up to and incl. the rank of SS-Obertuppführer were at first made of black and white twisted cord.3. In October 1934 they were changed to black and aluminium twisted cord.4. In August 1934 the special white metal emblem worn on the shoulder cords by the Reichsführer-SS was introduced.5.

1. Die Uniformen der Braunhemden,p 6.
2. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 25,17.11.34.pp 6 & 7.
3. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 3.16.6.34.p 7.
4. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 27.1.12.34.p 5.
5. Die Deutsche Wehrmacht, 1934-1945. Sheet 30.p 7.

PLATE 1
SS rank collar patches as worn until September 1934.

PLATE 2
SS rank collar patches as worn from September 1934 until 1942

PLATE 3
1. Shoulder cord for SS-Mann up to and incl. SS-Stabsscharführer and Sturmscharführer.
2. Shoulder cord for SS-Untersturmführer up to and incl. SS-Hauptsturmführer.
3. Shoulder cord for SS-Sturmbannführer up to and incl. SS-Standartenführer.
4. Shoulder cord for SS-Oberführer up to and incl. SS-Obergruppenführer.
5. Shoulder cord for Reichsführer-SS. (15.10.34)
6. Chevron for SS-Stabsscharführer. Worn on lower right sleeve.
7. Collar patch for Reichsführer-SS.

PLATE 1

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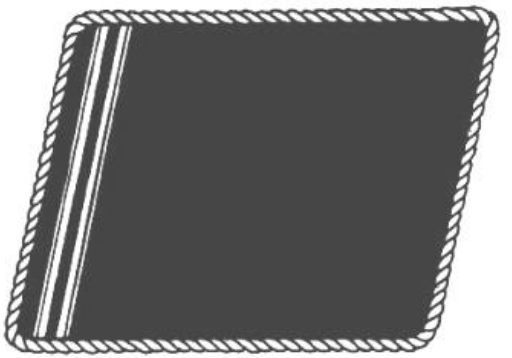

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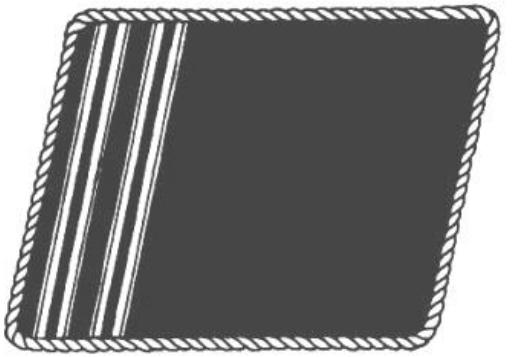

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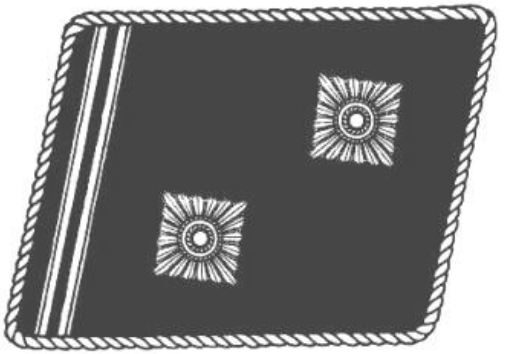

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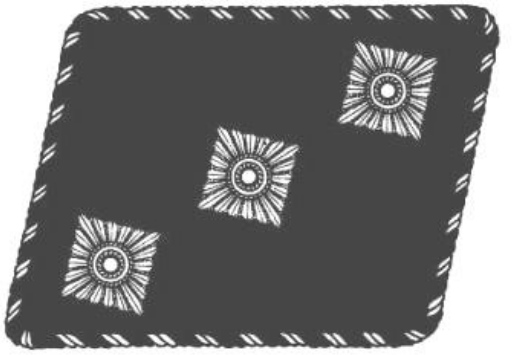

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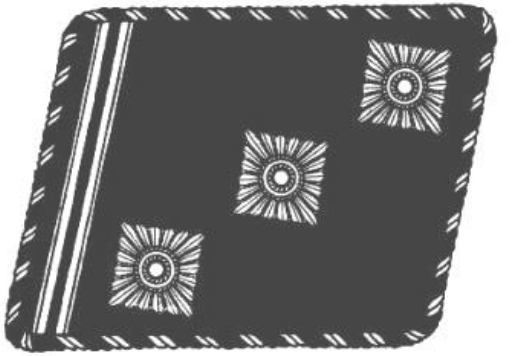

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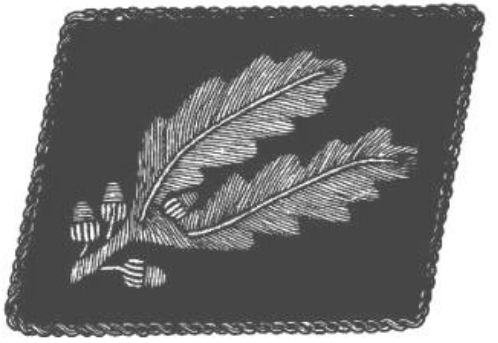

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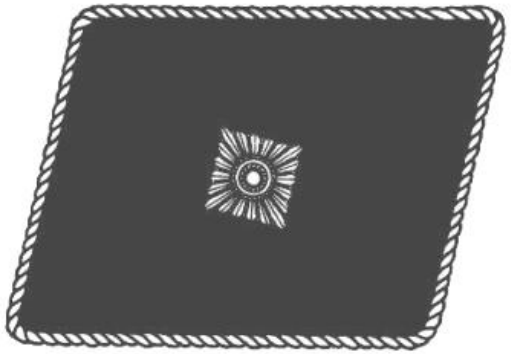

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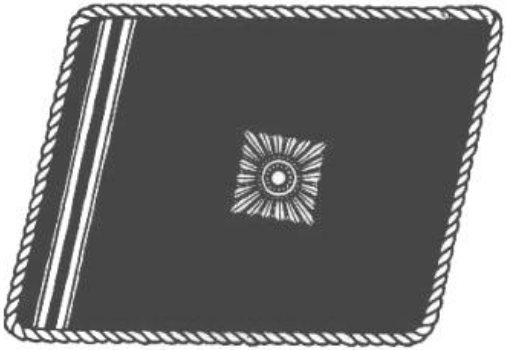

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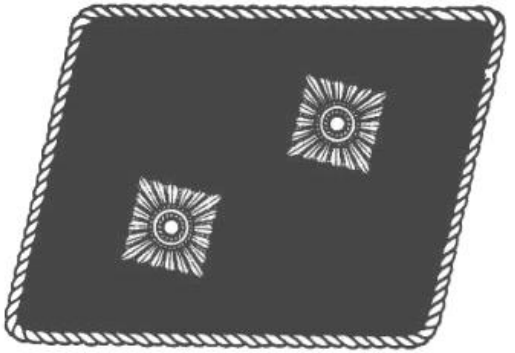

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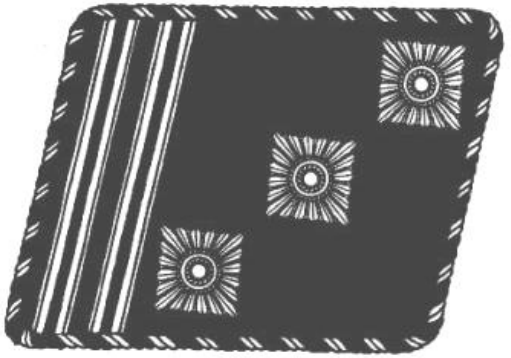

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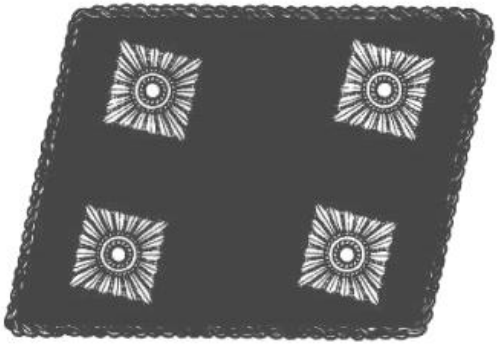

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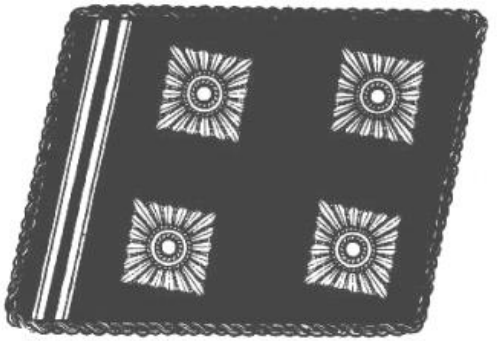

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PLATE 2

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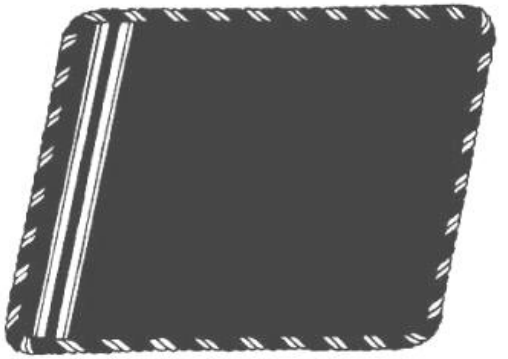

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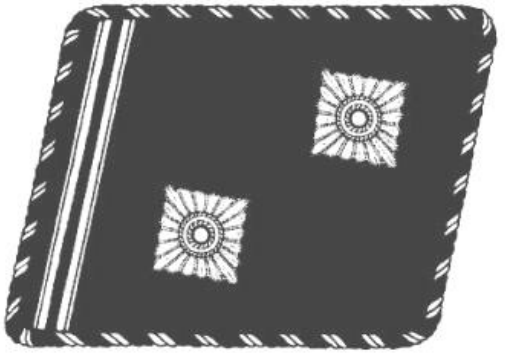

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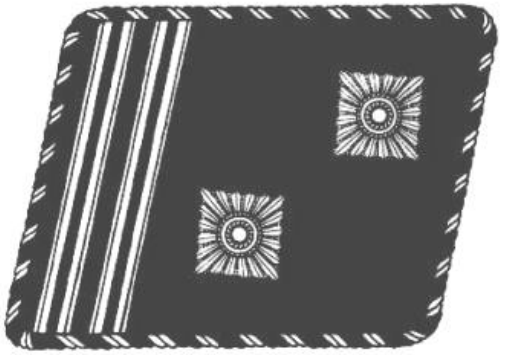

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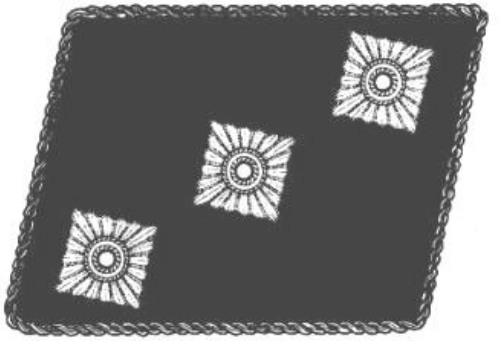

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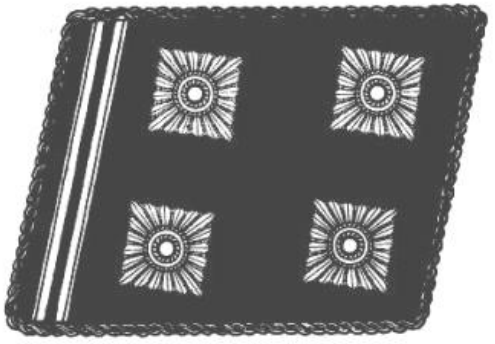

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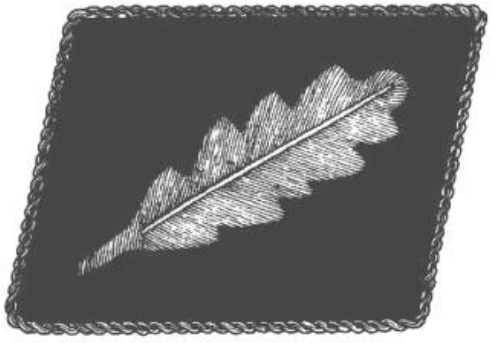

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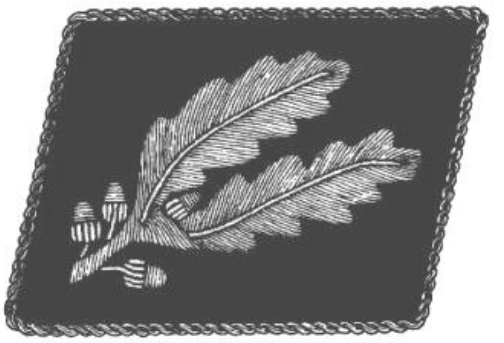

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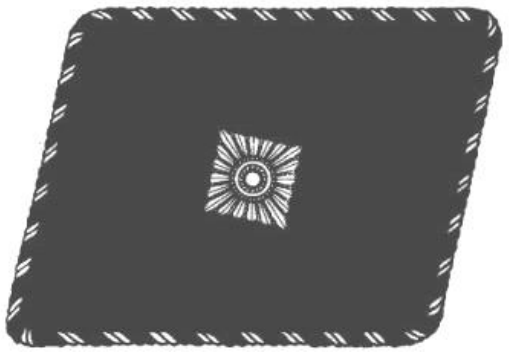

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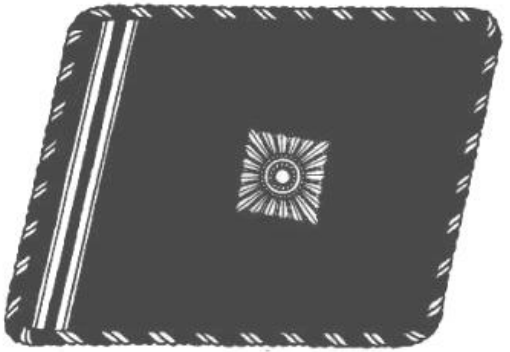

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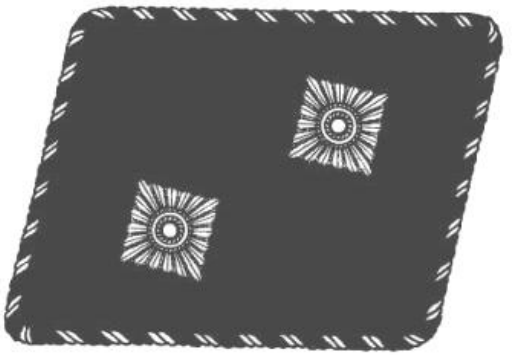

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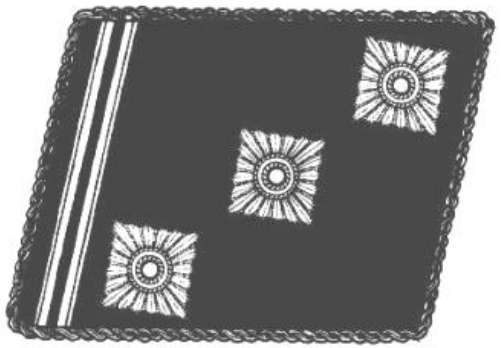

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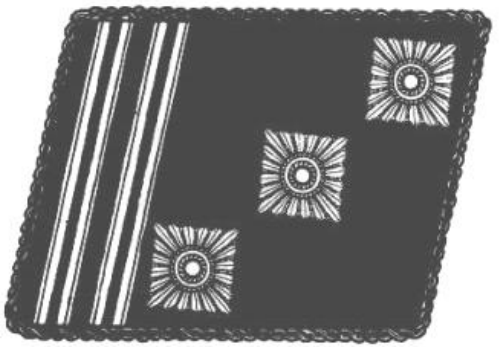

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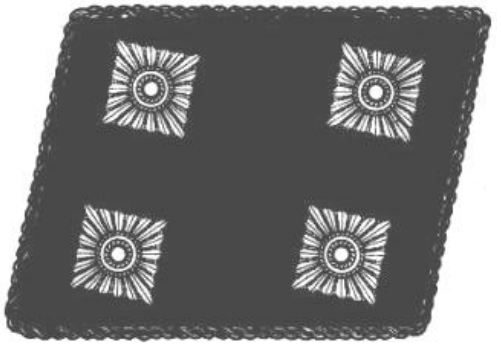

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PLATE 3

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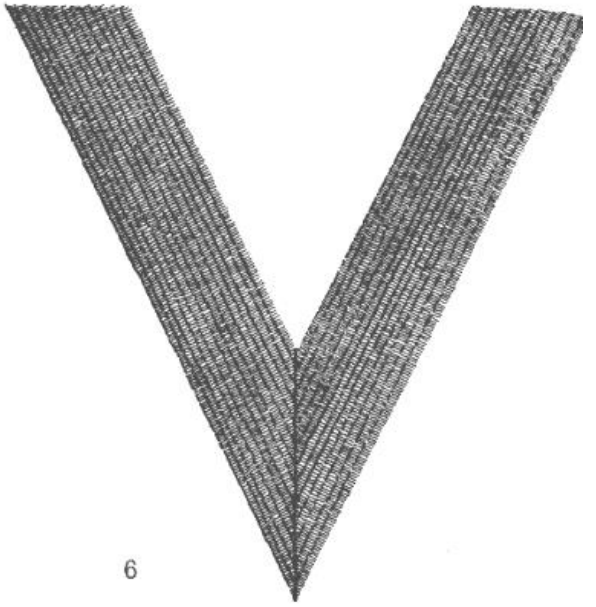

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OBERSTE S.A.-FÜHRUNG
SA High Command

Before the assassination of Ernst Röhm in June 1934, and the establishment of the SS as an independent organisation within the NSDAP, the SS came under the overall command of the SA. SS Leaders attached to the Oberste S.A.-Führung wore carmine collar patches, shoulder cord underlay, and 3 cm. wide black armband.1.

1. VOBL. der OSAF. Nr.17., 1.2.34., Ziff. 18.

REICHSFÜHRUNG-SS
SS High Command

Himmler's personal staff and officials of the three main, and numerous subsidiary departments of the Reichsführung-SS were members of the General SS. Apart from the armbands and armbadges that identified the wearer's main department, there were also those that showed the departmental rank of the wearer. These armbands were supposed to have been worn on the left cuff of the black uniform only.2., although they were later worn on the grey service uniform. The departmental rank armband had precedence over any other armband, and was not supposed to have been worn in conjunction with a second armband, although this was often done.

As the SS increased its sphere of activity the Reichsführung-SS was enlarged to eight main departments, and a new armband was introduced in 1939, which was to be worn by all officials of the RFSS regardless of department.3.

Members of the medical company of the SS Main Office wore SAN.-ABT.SS HA on their armband.4.

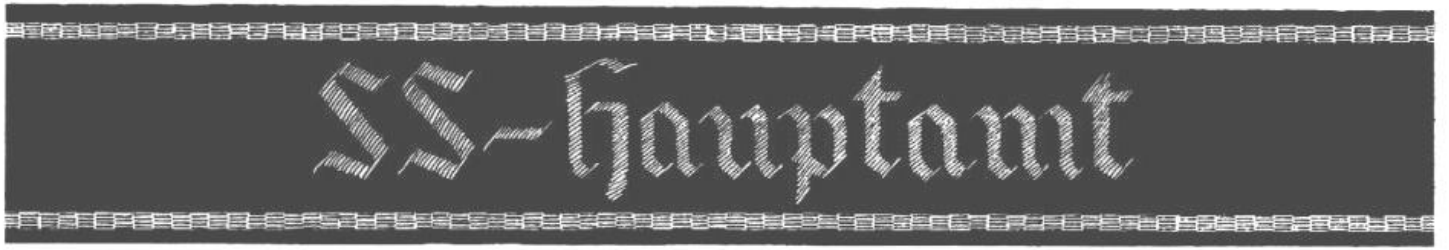
In 1936 an armband V.u.W Hauptamt was introduced for members of the Main Economic and Administrative Office.5.

2. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP.1943. p 434.
3. SS-Preisliste, April 1939. p 6.
4. SS-Preisliste, April 1939. p. 8.
5. SS-Befehlsblatt., 1939.

Armband for all SS members of the staff of the SA High Command. 1933.

PLATE 4

1



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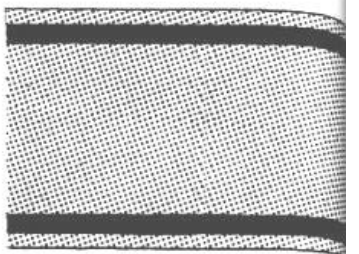

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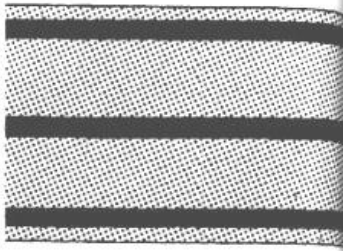

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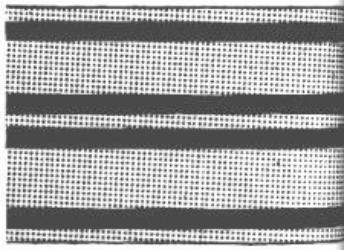

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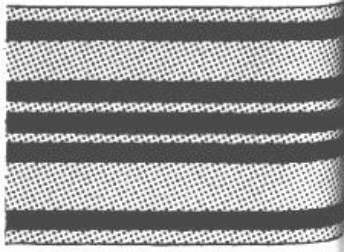

8

1. Armband for members of Himmler's personal staff.*
2. Armband for the Staff of the SS Main Office. (Intr. 25.1.35).
3. Armband for the staff of the SS Main Security Office. (Intr. 25.1.35).
4. Armband for the staff of the SS Main Race and Rehabilitation Office. (Intr. 25.1.35).
5. Armband for Reichsführer-SS.Hauptamtchefs and Amtschefs of the three SS Main Offices.
6. Armband for Hauptabteilungsleiter on the staff of the Reichsführer-SS and the three SS Main Offices.
7. Armband for Abteilungsleiter on the staff of the Reichsführer-SS and the three SS Main Offices.
8. Armband for Referenten on the staff of the Reichsführer-SS and the Three SS Main Offices.
9. Armbadge for the staff of the SS Main Security Office and all SD personnel.
10. Armbadge for the staff of the SS Main Race and Rehabilitation Office. (Intr. 6.10.35). Also for Agricultural experts.
11. Armbadge for the staff of the SS Main Race and Rehabilitation Office.
12. Armband introduced in 1939 for all officials attached to any of the Main or subsidiary offices which made up the enlarged RFSS.

* As from September 1939, all SS armbands were to have the Runic SS.

1. SS Preisliste No. 29.,15.12.34. p 10.
2. SS Preisliste No. 29.,15.12.34. p 11.
3. SS Preisliste No. 29.,15.12.34. p 11.

10-11. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 2.,1.2.36., p 27.

12. SS-Preisliste. April 1939., p 6.

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12

SS-OBERABSCHNITTE
SS Districts

Germany was divided into SS Districts which corresponded topographically with the military district or Wehrkreis, and were known by the name of the region in which they were situated. An SS District was commanded by a senior SS leader with a regular staff.
The Staff of an SS District wore the name of the district on the armband. Certain members of SS-OA.OST wore OST on their right collar patch.

In late 1932 the SS had 5 SS-Gruppen (Later Oberabschnitte).

Süd	Ost
West	Südost
Nord	

In 1937 there were 13 SS-OBERABSCHNITTE.1.

Süd	Ost
Südwest	Südost
Rhein	Elbe
West	Main
Nordwest	Fulda-Werra
Nord	Mitte
Nordost	

By October 1944 there were 23 existing on paper.
In addition to those existing in 1937, there were: *

Donau (formerly Österreich)	Warthe
Alpenland	Böhmen-Mähren
Weichsel	Ostland
Ukraine	

*On the 1.11.39, Ost was renamed Spree.
On the 20.4.40, Nord was renamed Ostsee.
On the 24.5.40, Rhein became Rhein-Westmark.
On the 25.5.40, Nordwest became Nordsee.

1. Dienstalterliste der SS.1937.
2. Dienstalterliste der SS., 1.10.44.

PLATE 5

1. Collar patch for all non-commissioned ranks on the staff of the Reichsführer-SS, the three SS Main offices, and an SS District.
2. Collar patch for all commissioned ranks below SS-Standartenführer in an SS Medical Company under the command of an SS District.
3. Armband for all ranks on the staff of SS District East, including the Medical Company.
4. Later pattern armband for all ranks in an SS Medical Company under the command of SS District South.

1. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 4.,23.6.34., p 7.
2. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 29,15.12.34. p 10.
3. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 26.,28.9.35. p 265.

PLATE 5

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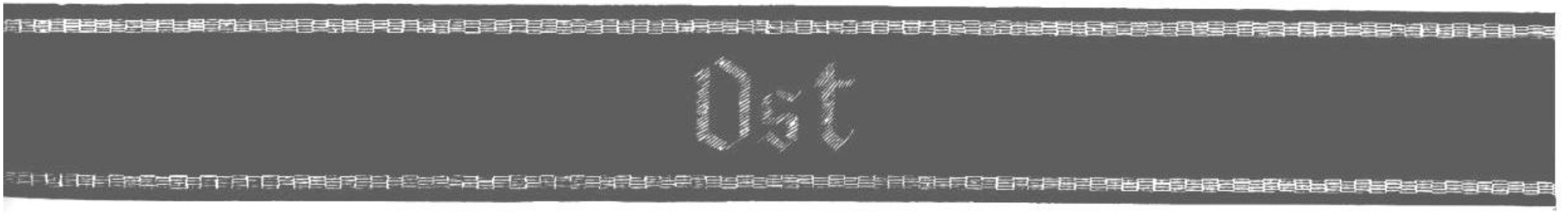

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SS-ABSCHNITTE
SS Sub-districts

Each SS District was divided into three or four Sub-districts which were identified by roman numerals. An SS Sub-district was commanded by a senior SS leader with a regular staff.
The staff of an SS Sub-district wore the number of their sub-district in Roman numerals on the right collar patch and armband.
In 1937 there were XXXIV SS Sub-districts.1.
In October 1944 there were XXXXV SS Sub-districts.2.

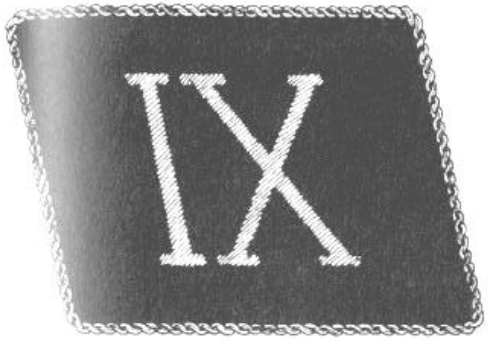
1. Dienstalterliste der SS.1937.
2. Dienstalterliste der SS. 1.10.44.

PLATE 6

1. Collar patch for commissioned ranks on the staff of SS Sub-district IX. The size of the roman numerals on the collar patch decreased as the Sub-district number increased.
2. Collar patch for commissioned ranks on the staff of SS Sub-district XXXVI. Leaders with the rank of SS-Standartenführer and above wore the edelweiss on the armbadge on the lower left sleeve.
3. Collar patch for commissioned ranks in an SS medical company under the command of SS Sub-district X.
4 Armband for all ranks on the staff of SS Sub-district XI, including the medical company.
5. Later pattern armband for all ranks in a medical company under the command of SS Sub-district XI.

1. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM.No. 29.,15.12.34. p 12.
2. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP.1943. p 435a.
3. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM.No. 4.,23.6.34. p 7.
4. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM.No. 1.,15.12.34. p 12.
5. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM.No. 6.,6.6.36. p 237.

PLATE 6



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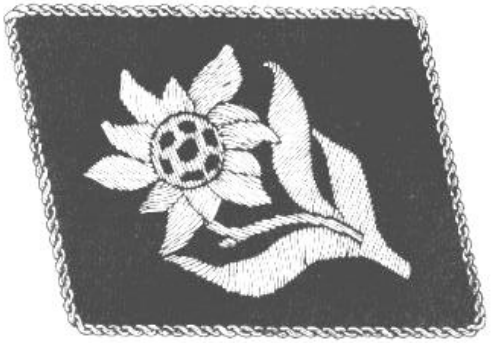

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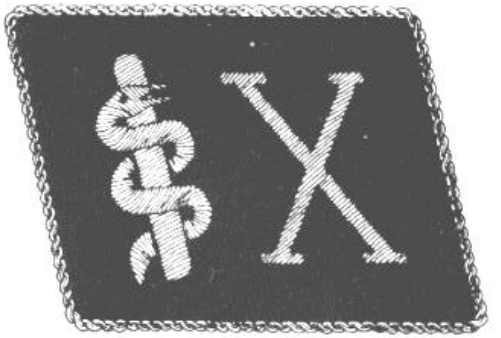

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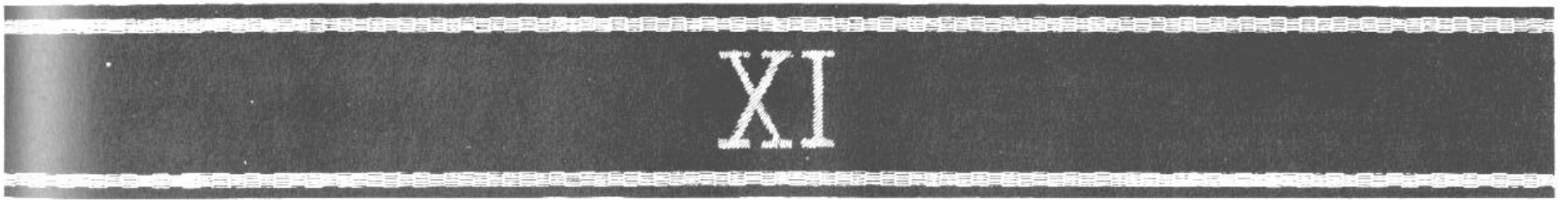

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5

SS-STANDARTEN

SS Regiments

Each SS Sub-district had under its command three or four SS foot regiments which were identified by arabic numerals on the right collar patch. SS reserve regiments had the letter R behind both collar patches.

A regiment consisted of four active and one or more reserve battalions identified by the colour of the stripes on the armband. This complicated system was changed and enlarged in June 1934.1., and again in December of the same year.2. A battalion consisted of up to four STÜRME (companies) identified by the arabic numerals on the armband. Each company was divided into three or four TRUPPS (platoons). Each platoon was divided into three SCHAREN (squads). The Smallest SS formation was a ROTTE (file).3.

Leaders with the rank of SS-Ustuf. up to and incl. SS-Staf. wore armbands with aluminium stripes and the regimental number in arabic numerals, or the regimental name. Those on the regimental or battalion staff, had plain armbands with aluminium stripes.

SS men had armbands with coloured stripes, names and numerals in white silk.

The commemorative names that appear on SS armbands were those of Nazis killed on the 9th November 1923, and during the bitter struggles with the communists during the thirties. Others have a purely geographical association.

1. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM.No. 4.,23.6.34. p 7.
2. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM.No. 3.,22.12.34. p 6.
3. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP.1943., pp 427 & 427a.

COMMEMORATIVE NAMES AWARDED TO SS COMPANIES

December 1934. 1.	April 1939. 2.	March 1941. 3.	Reg. No.
1 Paul Berck	1 Paul Berck	1 Paul Berck	26
1 Fritz Borawski	1 Fritz Borawski	1 Fritz Borawski	30
1 Henry Kobert	1 Henry Kobert	1 Henry Kobert	28
1 Garthe	1 Garthe	1 Garthe	25
1 Radke	1 Radke	1 Radke	40
1 Gerhard Landmann	1 Gerhard Landmann	1 Gerhard Landmann	49
1 Karl Vobis	1 Karl Vobis	1 Karl Vobis	20
	1 Karl Ostberg	1 Karl Ostberg	1
2 Franz Müller	2 Franz Müller	2 Franz Müller	58
2 Adolf Höh			30
2 Casella	2 Casella	2 Casella	1
	2 Hans Purps	2 Hans Purps	81
		2 Kurt Hilmer	
3 Friedrich Karpinski	3 Friedrich Karpinski	3 Friedrich Karpinski	25
3 August Pfaff	3 August Pfaff	3 August Pfaff	30
3 Kurt Hilmer	3 Kurt Hilmer		20
	3 Paul Fressonke		7
		3 Grobe	84
4 Josef Bleser	4 Josef Bleser	4 Josef Bleser	2
4 Fritz Schulz	4 Fritz Schulz	4 Fritz Schulz	42
4 Arnold Guse	4 Arnold Guse	4 Arnold Guse	25
4 Faust	4 Faust	4 Faust	31
5 Leopold Paffrath	5 Leopold Paffrath	5 Leopold Paffrath	25
5 Hellinger	5 Hellinger	5 Hellinger	1
5 Werner Hanneman	5 Werner Hanneman	5 Werner Hanneman	20
6 Eduard Felsen	6 Eduard Felsen	6 Eduard Felsen	6
6 Paul Teubner	6 Paul Teubner	6 Paul Teubner	7
8 Edmund Behnke	8 Edmund Behnke	8 Edmund Behnke	75
8 Martens	8 Martens	8 Martens	40
8 Gutsche	8 Gutsche	8 Gutsche	48
		8 Oskar Goll	6
9 Hans Cyranka	9 Hans Cyranka	9 Hans Cyranka	28
9 Friedrich Schreiber			
9 Steinbach			84
		9 Ernst Ludwig	71
		9 Kurt von der Ahe	6
10 Karl Laforce	10 Karl Laforce	10 Karl Laforce	1
10 Ludwig Frisch	10 Ludwig Frisch	10 Ludwig Frisch	84
10 Grobe			84
11 Ludwig Frisch			84
	11 Adolf Höh	11 Adolf Höh	30
	11 Friedrich Schreiber	11 Fredrich Schreiber	20
12 Fritz Beubler	12 Fritz Beubler	12 Fritz Beubler	67
	12 Andreas Zinkl	12 Andreas Zinkl	31

COMMEMORATIVE NAMES AWARDED TO SS REGIMENTS

December 1934. 1.	April 1939. 2.	March 1941. 3.	October 1944. 4.	Regt. No.
Seidel-Dittmarsch	Seidel-Dittmarsch (15. 10. 34.)	Seidel-Dittmarsch	Seidel Dittmarsch	54
	Holzweber	Holzweber	Holzweber	89
	Planetta	Planetta	Planetta	11
	Loeper (Intr. 3. 10. 35.)	Loeper	Loeper	59
	Julius Schreck (Intr. 25. 8. 36.)	Julius Schreck	Julius Schreck	1
	Friedrich Schlegel (Intr. 25. 9. 36.)	Friedrich Schlegel	Friedrich Schlegel	7
		v.d.Schulenberg	v.d.Schulenberg (Intr. 25. 7. 39.)	22
	Fritz Weitzel	Fritz Weitzel	Fritz Weitzel	20
		Bernd Rosemeyer		4 (Mot)
			Franz Kutschera	90
			Kurt von der Ahe	6
			Eduard Felsen	6
			Fritz Schulz	42
			Widukind	75
			Ostfriesland	24
			Hans Cyranka	28
			Paul Berck	26
			Adolf Höh	30
			Gothaland	14
			Oberhessen	83

1. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 29.,15.12.34.p 10
2. SS Preisliste. April 1939., pp 7 & 8.
3. SS Preisliste. March 1941., pp 11 & 12.
4. Dienstalterliste der SS.1944.

PLATE 7

1. Collar patch for non-commissioned ranks in the 28th SS Foot Regiment (Hamburg).
2. Collar patch for non-commissioned ranks in the 87th SS Foot Regiment (Innsbruck).
3. Armbadge for leaders with the rank of SS-Standartenführer and above in the 87th SS Foot Regiment (Innsbruck).
4. Collar patches for an SS-Sturmmann in the reserve battalion of the 28th SS Foot Regiment (Hamburg).

In 1939 the 105th SS Foot Regiment (Memel) was given the right to wear elk horns (The emblem of the Memeldeutsche Ordnungsdienst) on the right collar patch. 5: Leaders with the rank of SS-Standartenführer and above wore them on the arm badge, although only the commander SS-Oberführer Neumann did so.

1. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 29.,15.12.34. p 12.
2. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP.1943.p 435a.
3. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP.1943.p 435a.
4. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 25.,14.9.35., p 253.
5. Das Schwarze Korps No. 18., 4.5.39, p.18

PLATE 7

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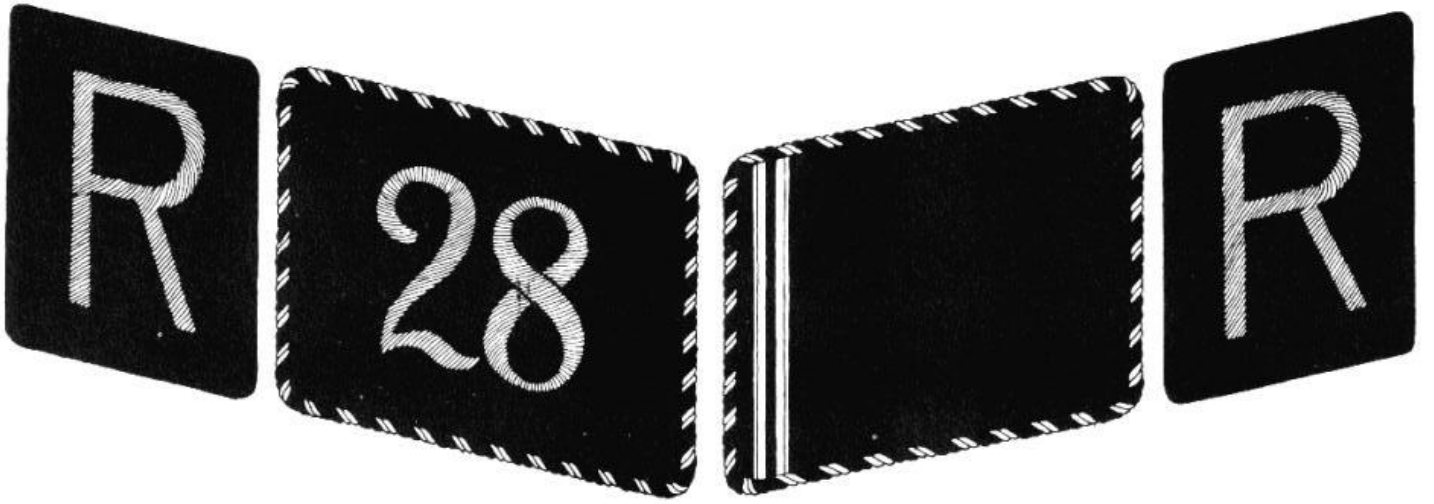

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PLATE 8: see colour guide on front endpaper.

1st Pattern

1. Armband for members of the 3rd company of the I battalion.
2. Armband for members of the 4th company of the II battalion.
3. Armband for members of the 2nd company of the III battalion.
4. Armband for members of the 6th company of the IV battalion.

2nd Pattern

5. Armband for members of the 1st company of the I battalion.
6. Armband for members of the 5th company of the II battalion.
7. Armband for members of the 9th company of the III battalion.
8. Armband for members of the 13th company of the IV battalion.
9. Armband for the staff of an SS reserve battalion.
10. Armband for members of the 3rd company of an SS reserve battalion.
11. Armband for members of the 4th company of the 1st battalion of the 31st SS Foot Regt. (Landshut) which had been awarded the commemorative name FAUST.
12. Armband for members of the 1st SS Foot Regiment JULIUS SCHRECK (Munich)

1-4 Uniformen der Braunhemden.,p 87.
5-11 Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 30.,22.12.34.,p 7.
12. Dienstalterliste der SS.1944

PLATE 8

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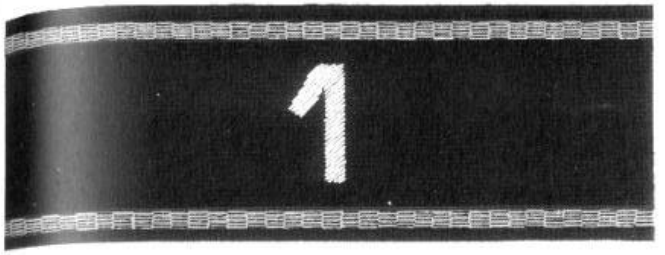

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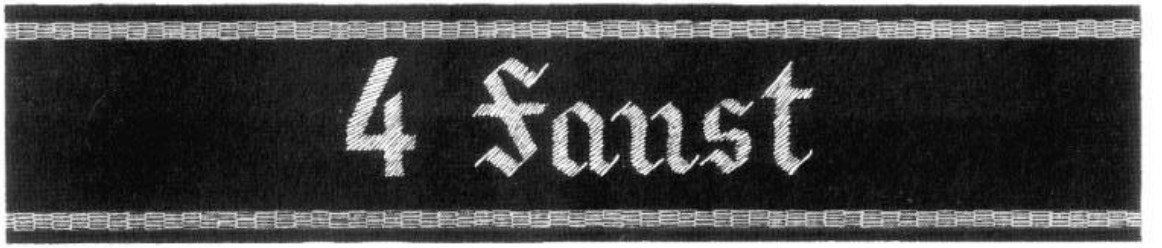

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12

SS-REITERSTANDARTEN
SS Cavalry Regiments

Each SS District had one or two Cavalry Regiments under its command, which were identified by crossed lances on the right collar patch and armbadge.

In 1937 there were 21 Cavalry Regiments.1., and in October 1944 there were 22.2.

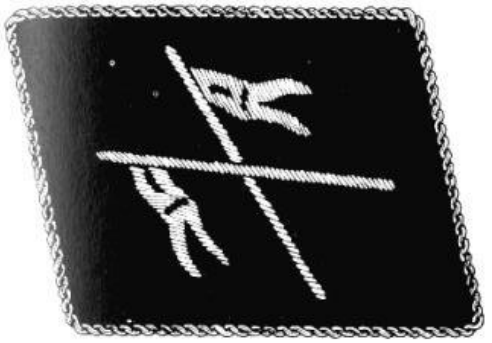
1. Dienstalterliste der SS., 1937.
2. Dienstalterliste der SS.,1.10.44.

A cavalry officer with the rank of SS-Ostubaf. and his adjutant.

PLATE 9

1. Collar patch for commissioned ranks in an SS Cavalry unit, not forming part of a cavalry regiment.
2. Collar patch for non-commissioned ranks in the 6th SS Cavalry Regiment (Düsseldorf).
3. Armbadge for all ranks in SS mounted units, including the Main Riding School in Munich.
4. Armband for leaders in the 5th company of an SS Cavalry regiment.
5. Armband for non-commissioned ranks in the 1st company of an SS mounted unit under the command of SS District East: see front endpaper. 1-3. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 4.,23.6.34. p 7.

PLATE 9



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SS-MOTOREINHEITEN (Später KRAFTFAHRSTÜRME)
SS Motorised Units

Each SS Sub-district had a motorised unit under its command, which was identified by a letter M and Arabic numerals on the right collar patch and a spoked wheel on the armbadge.

Members of the Motorstaffel z.b.V. der Gruppe (later Abschnitt) Ost wore Ost on their right collar patch and on the armband.

In 1937 there were 14 motorised units.1. and in October 1944 there were 19.2.

1. Dienstalterliste der SS.1937.
2. Dienstalterliste der SS.1944.

PLATE 10

1. Collar patch worn by members of the Special Purpose Motorcycle Squadron of SS District East.
2. Collar patch for all non-commissioned ranks in the 15th SS motorised unit (Graz/Innsbruck).
3. Armbadge for all ranks in an SS motorised unit, and for transport leaders on the staff of an SS Sub-district. Introduced on the 25. 1. 1937.
4. Armband for leaders in the 9th company of an SS motorised unit.
5. Armband for leaders on the staff of a reserve battalion in an SS motorised unit.

In February 1938 the 3rd company of the 4th SS Motorised unit (Hamburg/Kiel/Bremen) was awarded the commemorative name BERND ROSE-MEYER.6.

1-5 Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 29., 15.12.34. p 10.

6. Das Schwarze Korps. No. 5.,3.3.38. p 4.

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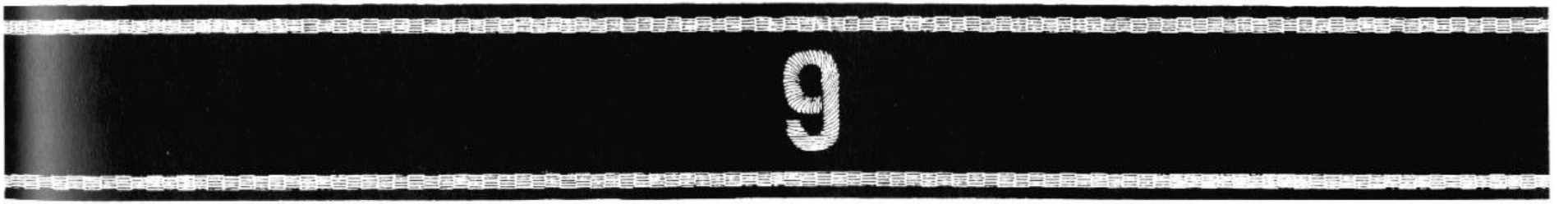

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5

SS-NACHRICHTENEINHEITEN
SS Signal units

Each SS District and Sub-district had signal units attached to it, which were identified by a lightning bolt on the right collar patch, and armbadge.
In 1937 there were 13 signal units.1., and in October 1944 there were 19.2.

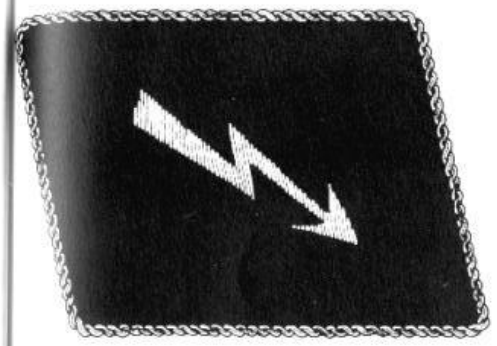
1. Dienstalterliste der SS.1937.
2. Dienstalterliste der SS. October 1944.

PLATE 11

1. Collar patch for signals leaders up to the rank of SS-Standartenführer on the staff of an SS District.
2. Collar patch for non-commissioned ranks in the 6th SS Signal Unit (Hamburg).
3. Armbadge for qualified signal personnel, but not members of signals units.
4. Armband for leaders on the staff of an SS signal unit.
5. Armband for members of the 9th company of an SS signal unit: see front endpaper.

1-5. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No.29.,15.12.34. p 10.

PLATE 11



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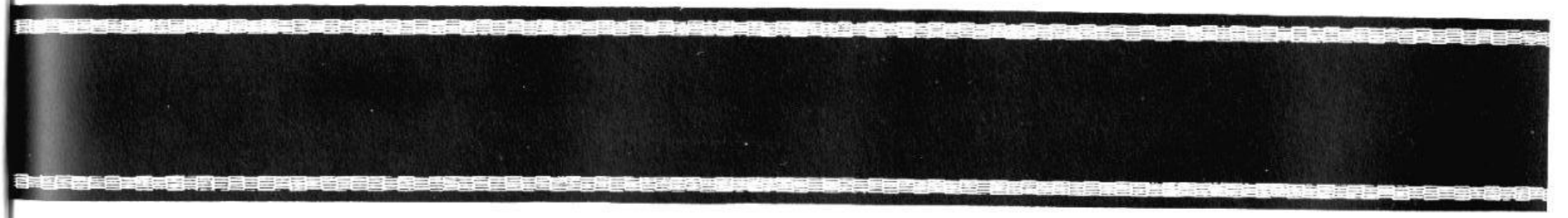

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SS-PIONIEREINHEITEN
SS Pioneer Units

SS Pioneer battalions were identified by a crossed pick and shovel on the right. collar patch, and armbadge. Members of the 15th Pioneer Battalion (Salzburg) wore an edelweiss on the armbadge.1.
In 1937 there 13 pioneer units.2., and in 1944 there were 16.3

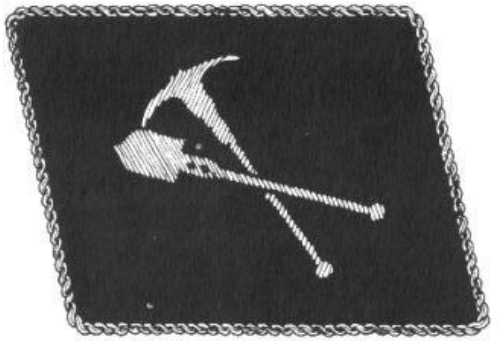
1. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP.1943., p 435a.
2. Dienstalterliste der SS.,1937.
3. Dienstalterliste der SS., October 1944.

PLATE 12

1. Collar patch for pioneer leaders up to the rank of SS-Standartenführer on the staff of an SS District.
2. Collar patch for all non-commissioned ranks in the 5th SS Pioneer Battalion (Harburg-Wilhelmsburg).
3. Armbadge for all pioneer personnel.
4. Armbadge for members of the Technical Training company of the Eisleben Mining School.
5. Armband for leaders on the staff of an SS pioneer battalion.
6. Armband for members of the 2nd company of an SS Pioneer Battalion.

1-6. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 29,.15.12.34. p 10.
4. Das Schwarze Korps. No. 6.,10.4.35. p 3.

PLATE 12



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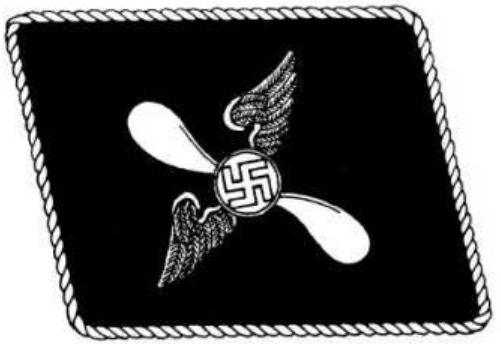
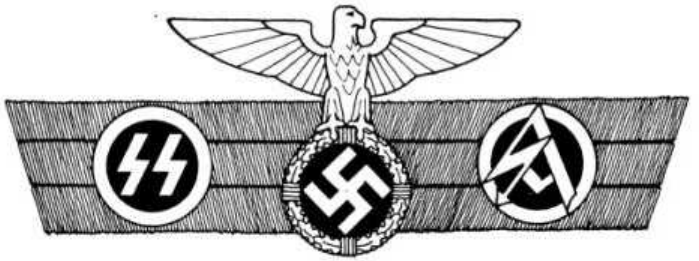
SS-FLIEGERSTURM
SS Flying Company

The SS Flying Company was formed in Munich in November 1931. In September 1933 all flying units were incorporated in the Deutsche Luftsport Verband.1. There appears to have been no official insignia to identify SS flying personnel, but some did wear a white metal winged propeller on the right collar patch.2. Certain members of the company wore an SA/SS pilot's wings on their right breast.3.

1. Uniformen der Braunhemden. p 25.
2-3. Ritter von Schleich. Illustration between pp 176 & 177.



Collar patch for members of the SS Flying company.



SA/SS pilot's wings.

SS-STREIFENDIENST
SS Provost Service

A Streifendienst was formed as and when required by the commander of an SS District. Amongst its duties were the patrolling of out-of-bounds areas.

seeing that SS men behaved themselves, were properly dressed, and were not seen in the streets, in uniform after midnight. A patrol consisted of two or three men under the command of a senior non-commissioned leader, who carried a special pass.1. All members of a Streife wore a nickel-plated gorget.

1. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP,1936. p 55.

SS-STAMMABTEILUNGEN
SS Supplementary Reserve Companies

These special units were formed by each SS district from members of the General SS who were over 45 years of age.

Members of a Stammabteilung wore SS uniform with silver grey collar patches. The right collar patch bore the emblem and number in black silk of the active unit to which they were attached.

In July 1936 plain silver grey armbands with aluminium stripes for leaders, and grey for men were introduced, as were grey velvet collar patches for SS-Standartenführer, with aluminium embroidered oakleaf.2.

By 1939 members of an SS-Stammabteilung attached to an SS District wore the name of the district in black silk for men, and aluminium wire embroidery for leaders, on their armbands.3. Also in use were bronzed rank pips, and black collar patch rank braid with aluminium stripe, instead of the normal pattern.4.

Collar patches for an SA/SS administrative official with the rank of Stabsverwaltungsführer: see rear endpaper.

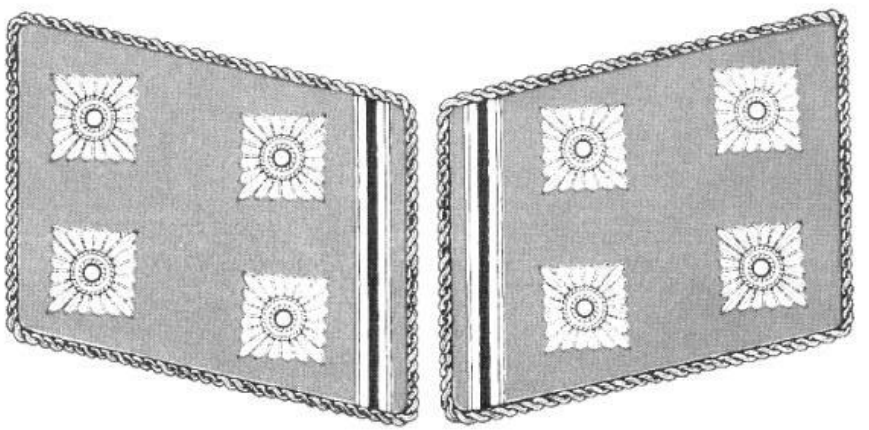
1. Die SS., p 19.
2. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 26.,28.9.35. p 265.
3. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 15.,18.7.36. p 302.
4. SS-Preisliste. April 1939., pp 5 & 10.

SS-VERWALTUNGSFÜHRER
SS Administrative Leaders

Whilst the SS was still part of the SA, SS administrative officials wore the same insignia as their counterparts in the SA, namely blue collar patches and underlay to the shoulder cord, and their badges of rank on both collar patches.1.

From July 1934 until the introduction in 1935 of a special armbadge (Plate No. 15) SS administrative officials wore no distinctive badges.2.

1. Uniformen der Braunhemden. p 93.
2. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 3.,1.2.36., p 27.



SS-EHRENFÜHRER
SS Honorary Leaders

Honorary rank in the SS was conferred on a number of important aristocrats, financiers and industrialists, whom Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler knew would be valuable to him, in his attempts to infiltrate influential conservative groups in the German hierachy.1.

Honorary leaders were given the right to wear SS uniform with SS rank which corresponded to their status in civilian life.

Special insignia which at first was quite straightforward was later enlarged.2., and then, not long after, seems to have been abolished altogether. Apart from special collar patches and armbands, honorary leaders also wore a silver aguillette, similar to the pattern introduced in 1938 for all SS leaders.

1. Der Orden unter dem Totenkopf.p 132.
2. Mitteilungblatt der RZM. No. 29.,15.12.34. p 11.

(See front endpaper for armband colours.)

PLATE 13

1. Collar patches for an SS Honorary Leader with the rank of SS-Standartenführer gazetted to (à la suite) the 2nd SS Regiment (Frankfurt/Main).
2. Armband for SS Honorary Leaders.
   1. Die Uniformen der Braunhemden. p 98.
   2. Die Uniformen der Braunhemden. p 98.

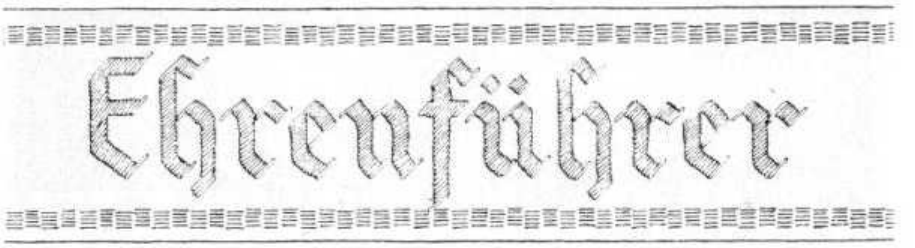
PLATE 14

1. Armband for SS honorary leader attached to SS District South.
2. Armband for an SS honorary leader attached to SS Sub-district IX.
3. Armband for an SS honorary leader attached to the 5th SS Regiment (Traben-Trarbach).
4. Armband for SS honorary leaders with the rank of SS-Sturmführer up to and including SS-Obersturmbannführer.

   1-4. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 29.,15.12.34. p 11.

PLATE 13

1



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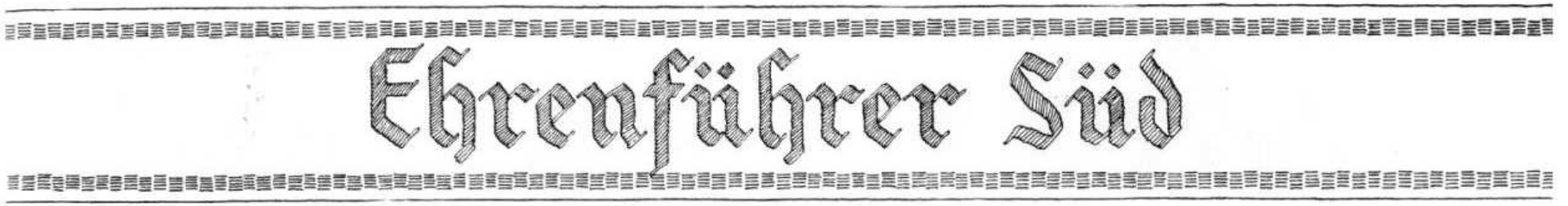

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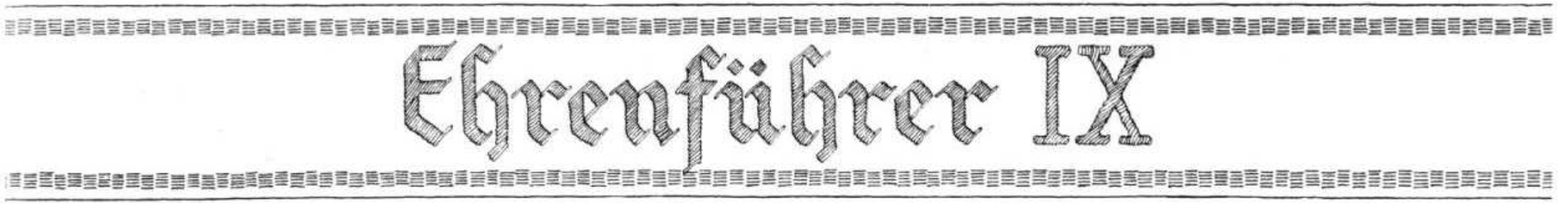

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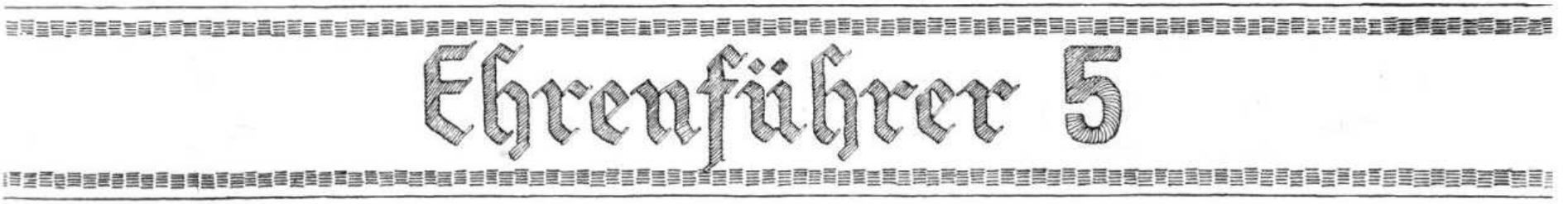

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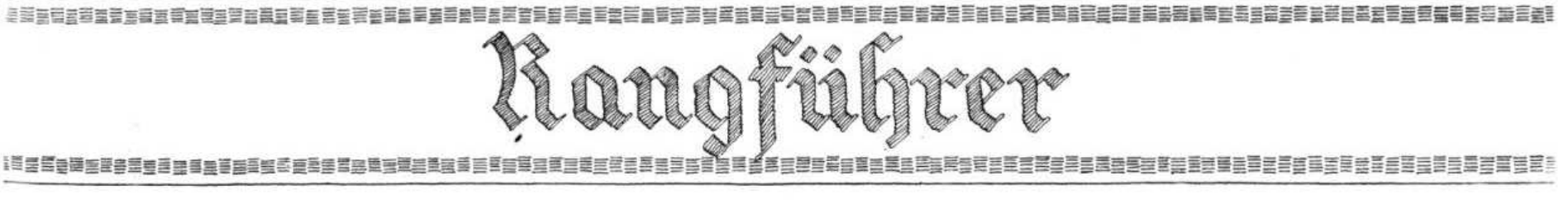

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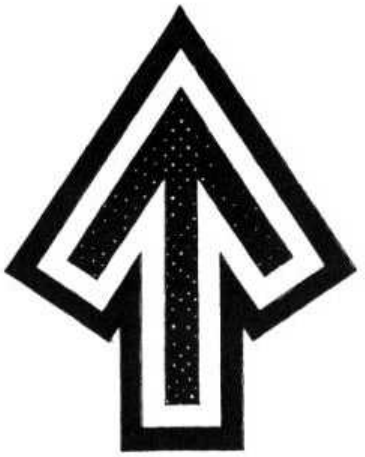


Armbadge worn on the upper left arm, above the brassard, by graduates of the REICHSFÜHRERSCHULEN. (From centre to outer edge, black, white, red.)

Armbadge worn on the lower left sleeve by SS members of the AUSLANDS-ORGANISATION DER NSDAP. Introduced on the 25.9.36.

SS-SCHULEN
SS Schools

Staff and cadets of the following SS schools wore the name of their school on their armbands.

1. SS-REITSCHULE FORST (Disbanded 7.8.1938).
2. SS-HPT-REITSCHULE MÜNCHEN (In March 1938 this armband was replaced by the crossed lances which were on the arm badge.
3. SS-MOTORSCHULE BERNE (Runic SS).

1. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 11.,23.5.36. p 205.
2-3. SS Price list. April 1939. p 6.

SS-ÄRMELABZEICHEN
SS Armbadges

Armbadges were worn on the lower left sleeve 3.5 cms above the armband.
PLATE 15

1. Leader in medical service.
2. Medical personnel.
3. Leader in dental service.
4. Pharmacist.
5. Leader and under leader in veterinary service.
6. Farrier.
7. Bandmaster.
8. Leader in administrative service. Introduced 25.2.1938.

Other armbadges existed, but have not yet been identified.

1. For cross country sport.
2. Wolfsangel.
3. For ex-SA men in SS.
4. For Kyffhäuserbund. Introduced on the 25.4.1938.
5. For tournament and racing club.

1. SS-Preisliste. March 1941.p 6.

PLATE 15

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

SS-ARMWINKEL
SS Chevrons

PLATE 16

1. Ehrenwinkel für Alte Kämpfer (honour chevron for old campaigners), was worn on the upper right arm by SS men who had joined either the SS, NSDAP or one of its organisations before the 30th January 1933. Also by those members of the Austrian SS, NSDAP or one of its organisations, or members of a traceable Austrian pro-Nazi organisation, and by those, in Austria who volunteered for SS membership before the 12th February 1933.
2. Ehrenwinkel für Ehemalige Polizei und Wehrmachts Angehörige (Honour chevron for ex-members of the Police and armed forces). Introduced 25.7.1935., was worn on the upper right arm by all SS veterans who had served in the armed forces or police, or who had served simultaneously in another party organisation.
3. Chevron for ex-members of the Stahlhelm (Steel Helmet organisation), was worn on the lower left sleeve.

1-2. Organisationsbuch der NSDAP. 1943., p 435.
3. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM.1935. No. 29.15.12.34. p 12.

Stoßtrupp Adolf Hitler 1923

Armband introduced on the 25th May 1936 for ex-members of the "Stosstrupp Adolf Hitler," worn on right cuff

PLATE 16

1

2

3

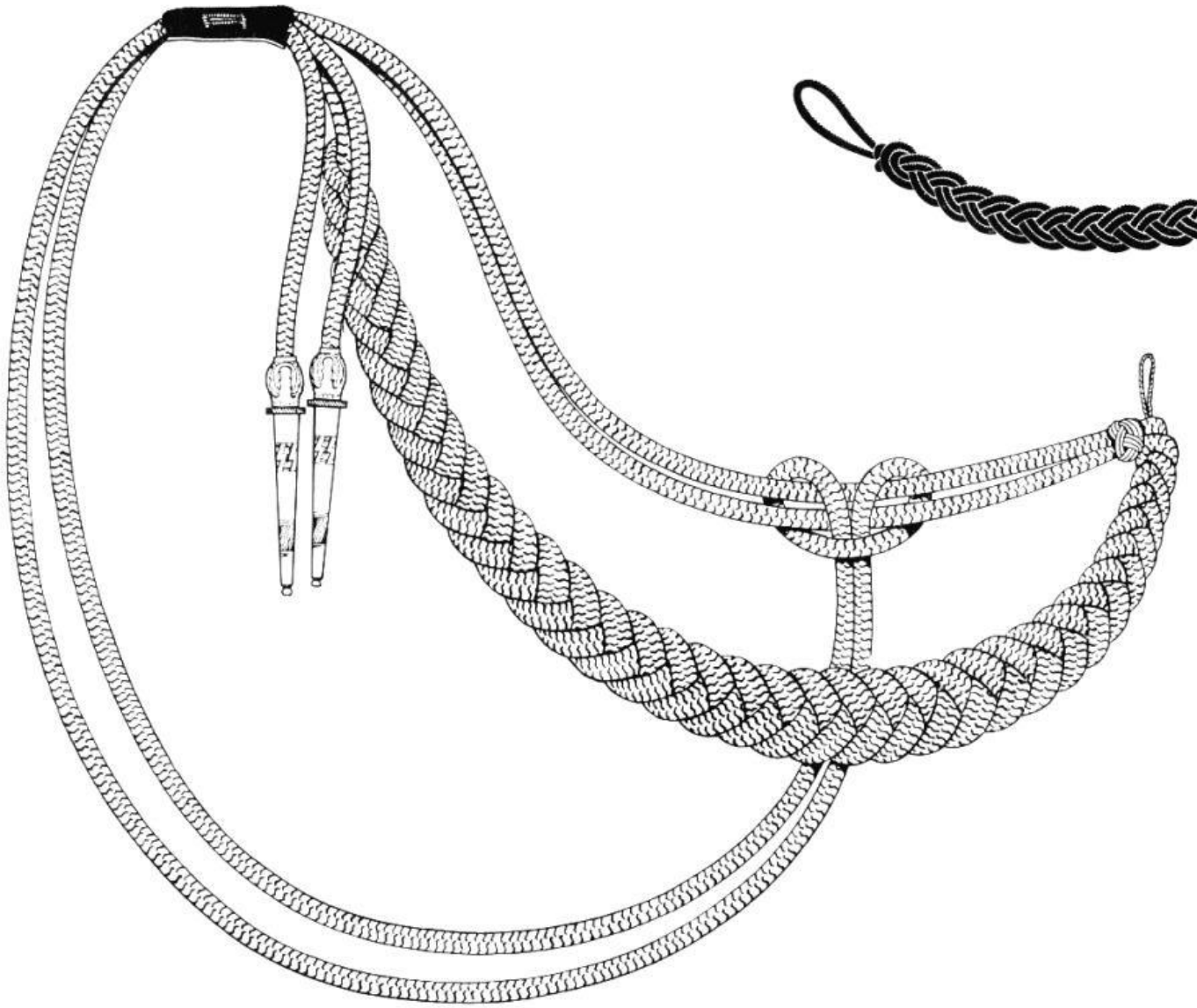
SS-ADJUTANTENSCHNUR
SS Adjutant's aiguillette

While the SS was still under the overall command of the SA, Röhm had a number of SS adjutants on his staff, who wore the aiguillette prescribed for SA adjutants.
SS leaders with the rank of SS-Sturmführer and above, nominated as adjutants by the Reichsführer-SS were entitled to wear on the right shoulder of their service uniform tunic, a black and silver aiguillette.1.

SS-SIGNALPFEIFENSCHNUR
SS whistle lanyard

Black twisted silk cord lanyard was worn by non-commissioned and commissioned leaders from the top tunic button to the left breast pocket of the service tunic.2.

Adjutant with the rank of SS-Ustuf. in the 6th SS Foot Regt. Charlottenburg (Berlin), February 1933. (Südverlag).



SS adjutant's aiguillette. 1938 model.

SS whistle lanyard.

SS-DIENSTDOLCH MODELL 1933
SS Service Dagger, Model 1933

Introduced on the 15th December 1933 for all ranks in the General SS. The right to wear the dagger was bestowed on an SS man on the 9th November, after he had served three years as an SS candidate, and had been finally accepted in the SS. The dagger was worn with all orders of dress until September 1940, when it was no longer to be worn.

Dagger Black wooden grip with inset white metal eagle and enamel SS badge. Nickel-plated sheath and hilt pieces. Black metal sheath. Etched motto on blade. MEINE EHRE HEISST TREUE. Daggers presented by the Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler bore an inscription on the reverse of the blade. IN HERZLICHER KAMERADSCHAFT H. HIMMLER. Average overall length 37 cms.

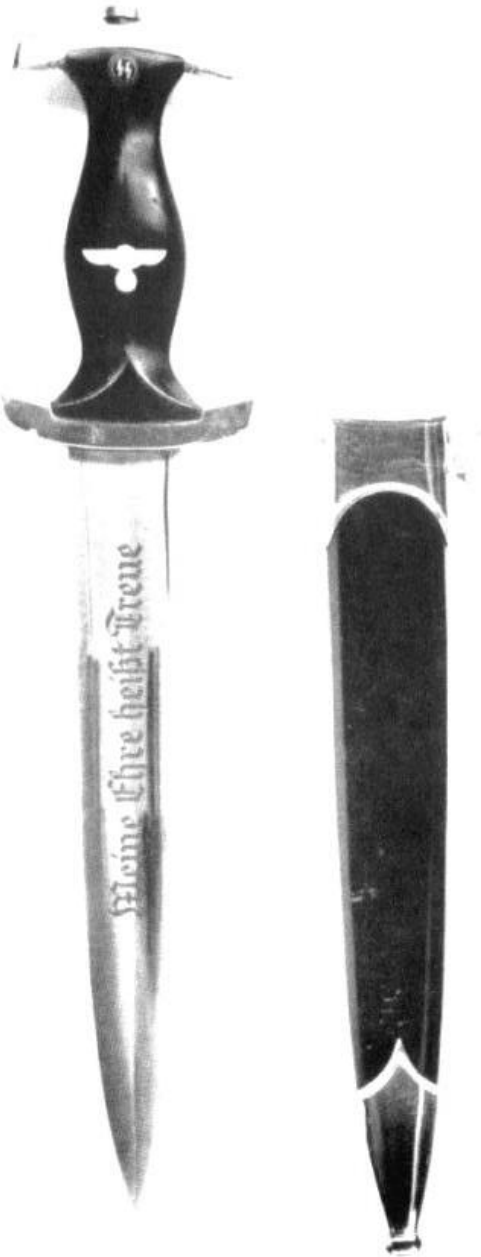
Hanger FESTSTELLRIEMEN was a short black leather strap with an oval nickel-plated buckle at one end, and a nickel-plated clip at the other. The strap was passed through the ring on the dagger sheath, buckled, and then clipped onto a D ring on a black leather slide on the service belt. In November 1934 it was ordered that with service uniform, the dagger would, in future, be worn in a special vertical black leather hanger, DOLCHTRAGETASCHE.1. The dagger was, from that date, to be worn with the old type hanger, only with walking out uniform.

SS-DIENSTDOLCH MODELL 1936
SS Service dagger Model 1936

Introduced on the 25th August 1936 as a new dagger for wear with service and undress uniforms, by commissioned and those non-commissioned ranks who were fully fledged SS men before the 30th January, 1933. Dagger identical to the 1933 model with the exception of an extra sheath fitting and chain hanger.

SS-SEITENGEWEHRE
SS Bayonets

Model 84/98 bayonets were not standard issue in the General SS, but like steel helmets were issued for special occasions.



SS Service dagger model 1933.

SS Service dagger model 1936.

SS-Oberscharführer Heinrich Rogowski in walking-out uniform with the 1936 model dagger, July 1937. *(W. Bloomer collection.)*

SS-AUSRÜSTUNG
SS Equipment as at December, 1934.1.

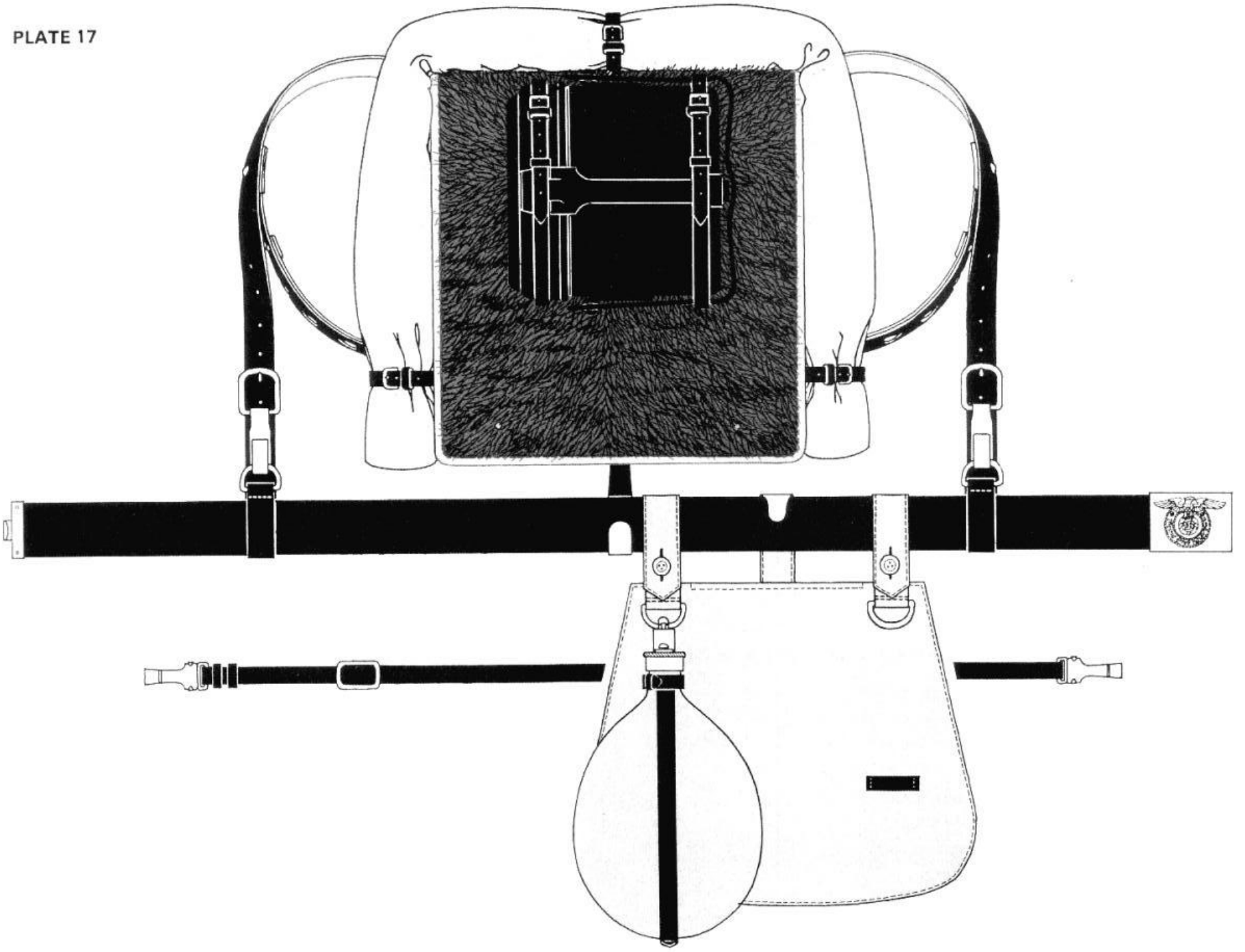
SS Calf-skin pack with carrying straps
SS Triangular ground sheet.
SS Ground sheet accessory bag, empty.
SS Ground sheet peg.
SS Ground sheet pole.
SS Ground sheet line.
SS Mess tin with eating implements.
SS Eating implements.
SS Bread bag.
SS Bread bag strap.
SS Water bottle with felt cover.
SS Drinking cup.
SS Pack cover, grey.
SS Sleeping bag, white.
SS Signal light (Reflector) for march column, front.
SS Signal light (Reflector) for march column, rear.
SS Signal light (Reflector) for march column, arm.
SS Shoe cleaning kit.

In 1936 black felt water bottle covers, and black canvas bread bags were no longer supplied. Instead the whole SS was to be issued with grey ones.2.

1. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 29.,15.12.34. p 14.
2. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 12.,6.6.36. p 237.

PLATE 17
1936 field equipment consisting of pack with folded ground sheet and mess tin, with bread bag and water bottle suspended from service belt. Underneath other ranks cross strap. The ground sheet, water bottle cover and bread bag are grey, the belt and straps blackened on outer surfaces, natural hide on inner surfaces; the mess tin, black; all other metal, white; the pack, natural brown calf-skin.

PLATE 17



SS-LEDERWAREN

SS Leatherware as at December 1934.1.

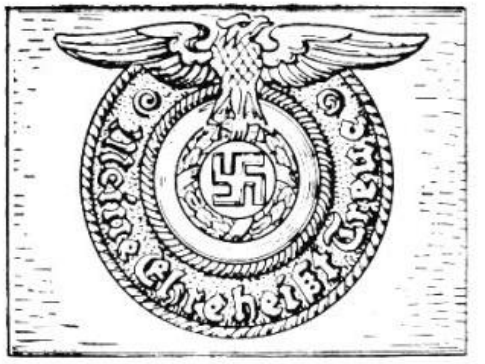
SS Waist belt, lined with buckle for SS men up to and incl. SS-Hauptscharführer.
SS Waist belt, unlined with buckle for SS men up to and incl. SS-Hauptscharführer.
SS Waist belt, lined with buckle for leaders.
SS Waist belt, unlined with buckle for leaders.
SS Cross strap, lined for SS men up to and incl. SS-Hauptscharführer.
SS Cross strap, unlined for SS men up to and incl. SS-Hauptscharführer.
SS Cross strap, lined for leaders.
SS Cross strap, unlined for leaders.
SS Cross strap (three piece), lined for SS men up to and incl. SS-Hauptscharführer.
SS Cross strap (three piece), unlined for SS men up to and incl. SS-Hauptscharführer.
SS Cross strap (three piece), lined for leaders.
SS Cross strap (three piece), unlined for leaders.

Three piece cross straps were worn by musicians, mounted and medical personnel.

SS Overcoat strap (three per pack).	Black
SS Mess tin strap.	,,
SS Spur strap.	,,
SS March strap (Marschriemen).	,,
SS Auxilliary carrying strap for pack.	,,
SS Waist belt slide.	,,
SS Dagger slide (Dolchschlaufen).	,,
SS Dispatch case.	,,
SS Map case.	,,
SS Bayonet frog.	,,
SS Dagger frog (Seitengewehrtaschen).	,,
SS Dagger hanger (Dolchtragetaschen).	,,
SS Dagger hanger, for mounted personnel.	Brown
SS Dagger hanger (Feststellriemen).	,,
SS Riding breeches leather (Buckskin).	,,

1. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 29.15.12.34.p 14.

SS Leader's belt buckle.[1]



SS other-ranks belt buckle.[1]

[1] Mentioned as new items in VOBL. der OSAF. Nr.6., 26.1.32., Ziff. 22.

SS-SPORTBEKLEIDUNG

SS Sports clothes as at December 1934. 1

SS Motorcycle goggles.
SS Motorcycle overalls, grey.
SS Training outfit, grey.
SS Sports trousers, black sateen (satin).
SS Sports vest, white with SS badge.
SS Bathing costume, black wool.
SS Bathing costume. Three cornered type, black wool.
SS Ski tunic.
SS Ski trousers (Überfallhose).
SS Ski cap.
SS Ski gaiters (Wickelgamaschen).

Fencing jacket arm badge

Sports vest badge

SS Sports clothes as at March 1941. 2

SS Sports trousers, black sateen.
SS Sports shirt, white with SS badge.
SS Training jacket, blue with SS badge.
SS Training trousers, blue.

1. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 29.,15.12.34. pp 13 & 14.
2. SS-Preisliste. March 1941. 3.

MUSIK-INSTRUMENTE UND ZUBEHÖR
Musical instruments and accessories as at March 1941.1

SS Drum-major's mace without cord and tassels.
SS Fife. Army model.
SS Drum.
SS Drum stick.
SS Drum cover with carrying strap.
SS Bugle with national emblem and binding.
SS Trumpet.
SS Cord and tassels for Drum-major's mace.
SS Drum hook, with leather strap.
SS Drum hook without leather strap.
SS Sheet music case.
SS Bugle carrying strap.
SS Drum stick case.
SS Fife case.
SS Drum knee leather (Apron) black leather.
SS Drum knee leather (Apron) white leather.
SS Trumpet banner with 5 cm aluminium fringe.
SS Kettle drum banner with 5 cm aluminium fringe including cover.
SS Parade flag for "Jingling Johnnie".
1. SS-Preisliste. March 1941. p 14.

SS-SPIELMANNSZUG UND MUSIKZUG
SS Corps of drums and bands

Musicians in the SS, as in the German army were divided into two distinct groups. The SPIELMANNSZUG or corps of drums, consisted of between eight and twenty four drummers and fifers or buglers, commanded by a Drum-major.
The MUSIKZUG or band consisted of between twenty and forty musicians led by a MUSIKFÜHRER (Bandmaster).
Each SS foot regiment had one band and one or more corps of drums.
SS cavalry regiments had a corps of trumpeters which consisted of up to twenty trumpeters and a KESSELPAUKER (Kettledrummer).

SS-SCHWALBENNESTER
SS "Swallow's nests"

Musicians wore special wings or "swallow's nests", as they were known in Germany, on both shoulders of their tunic. SS "swallow's nests" were made of black cloth trimmed with white, for the corps of drums, and aluminium braid for bandsmen. Drum-majors had 7 cm long white fringe.1.
In 1936 white trimming for "swallow's nests" was abolished and all musicians had aluminium braid, but bandsmen were given 3 cm, and Drum-majors 7 cm long aluminium fringe.2.

Drum-major's mace

Bandmasters with leaders rank did not wear "swallow's nests", but had a lyre on their armbadge.

SS-SCHELLENBÄUME
SS "Jingling Johnnies"

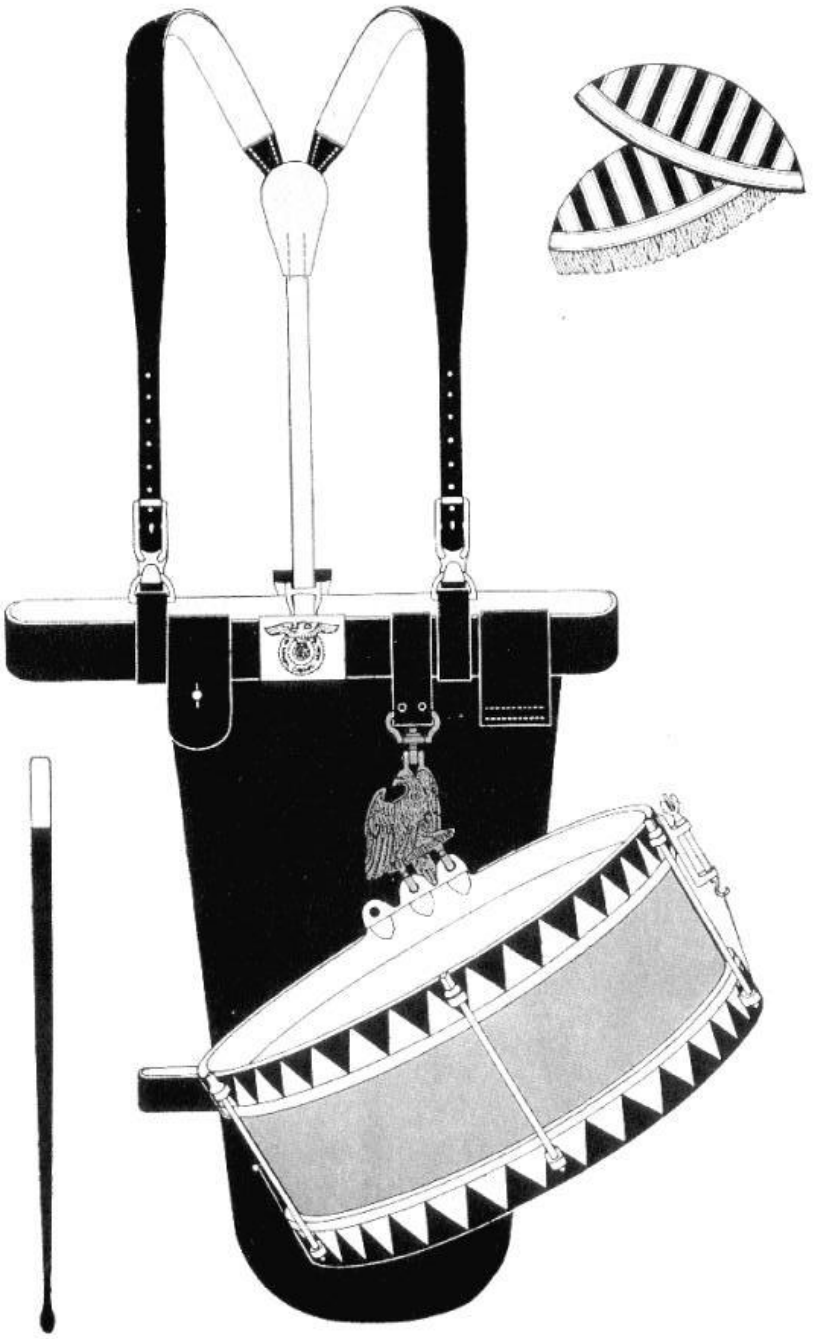
"Jingling Johnnies" were carried at the head of bands and came to Prussia in the 18th century, from Turkey, via Poland and Austria. Its origin in Mohammedan armies was that of a symbol of command. Later it was used in Turkish Janissary bands as a percussion instrument.3.
"Jingling Johnnies" did not conform to any standard pattern, and many different models existed. In most cases they were paid for by private subscription and presented to a unit by the citizens of its garrison town.4. Some "Jingling Johnnies" of disbanded Imperial army regiments found their way into the SS but were handed back to those regiments of the new Wehrmacht, who were to carry on the traditions of the disbanded regiments.5.

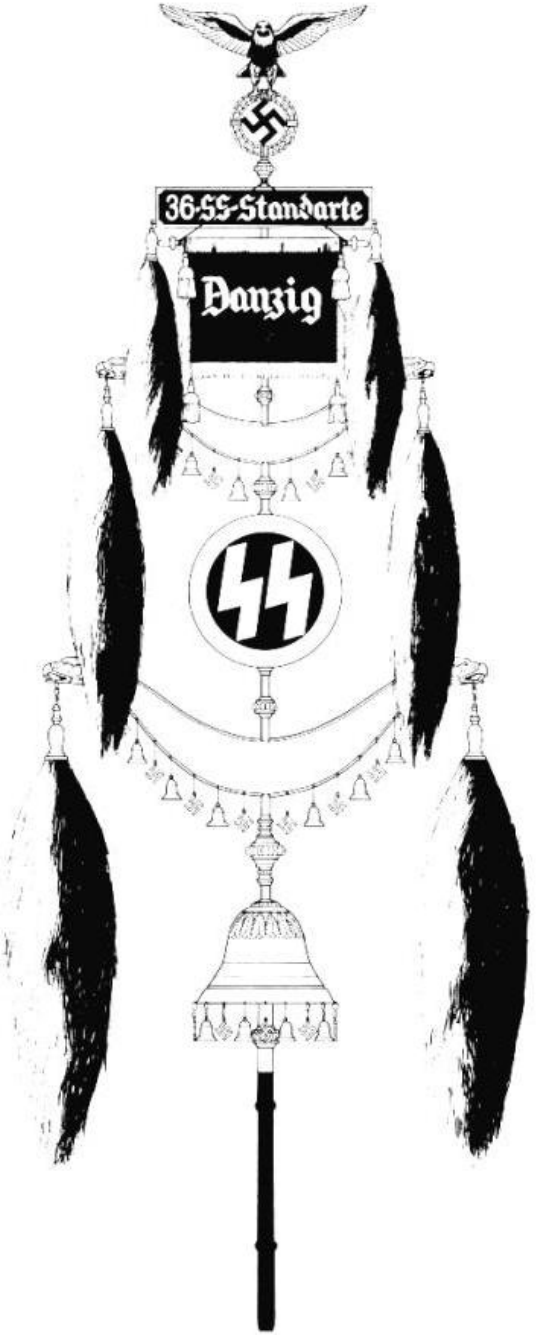
SS-FANFARENTÜCHER UND PAUKENGEHÄNGE
SS Trumpet and kettledrum banners

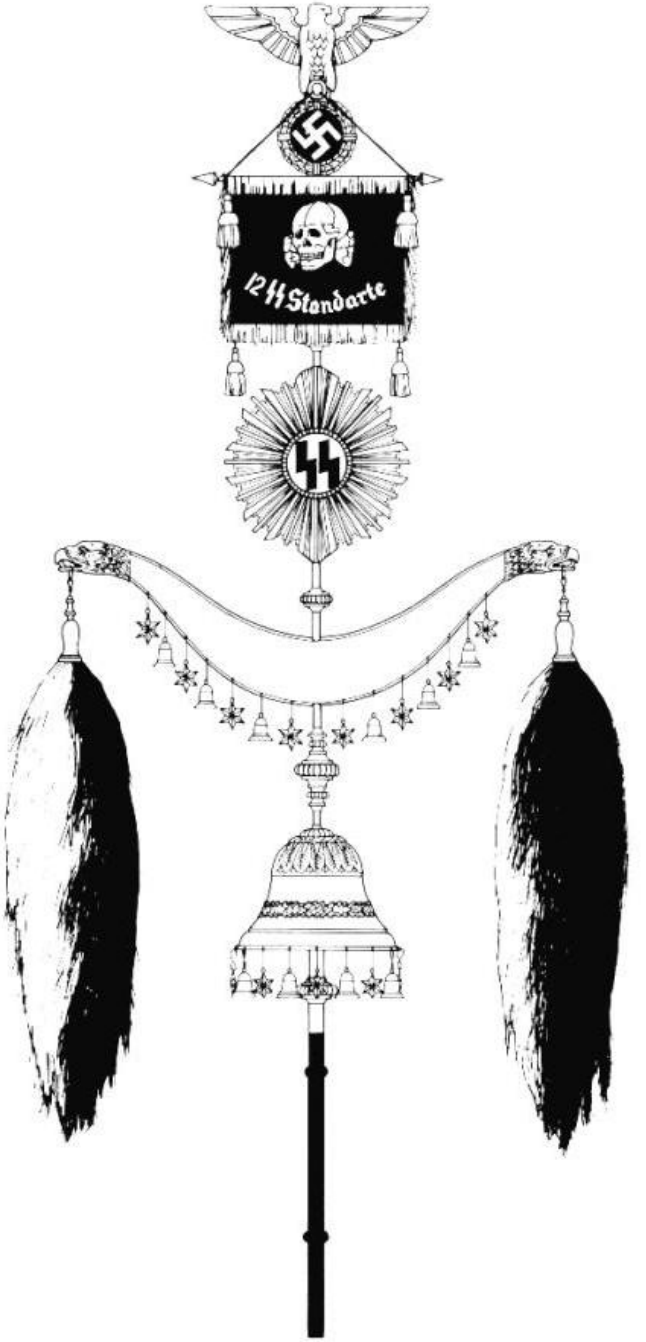
Trumpet and kettledrum banners did not conform to any standard design, and were in most cases presented to the unit by public subscription. The quality and elaborateness of the design of the banner depended on the generosity of the subscribers.

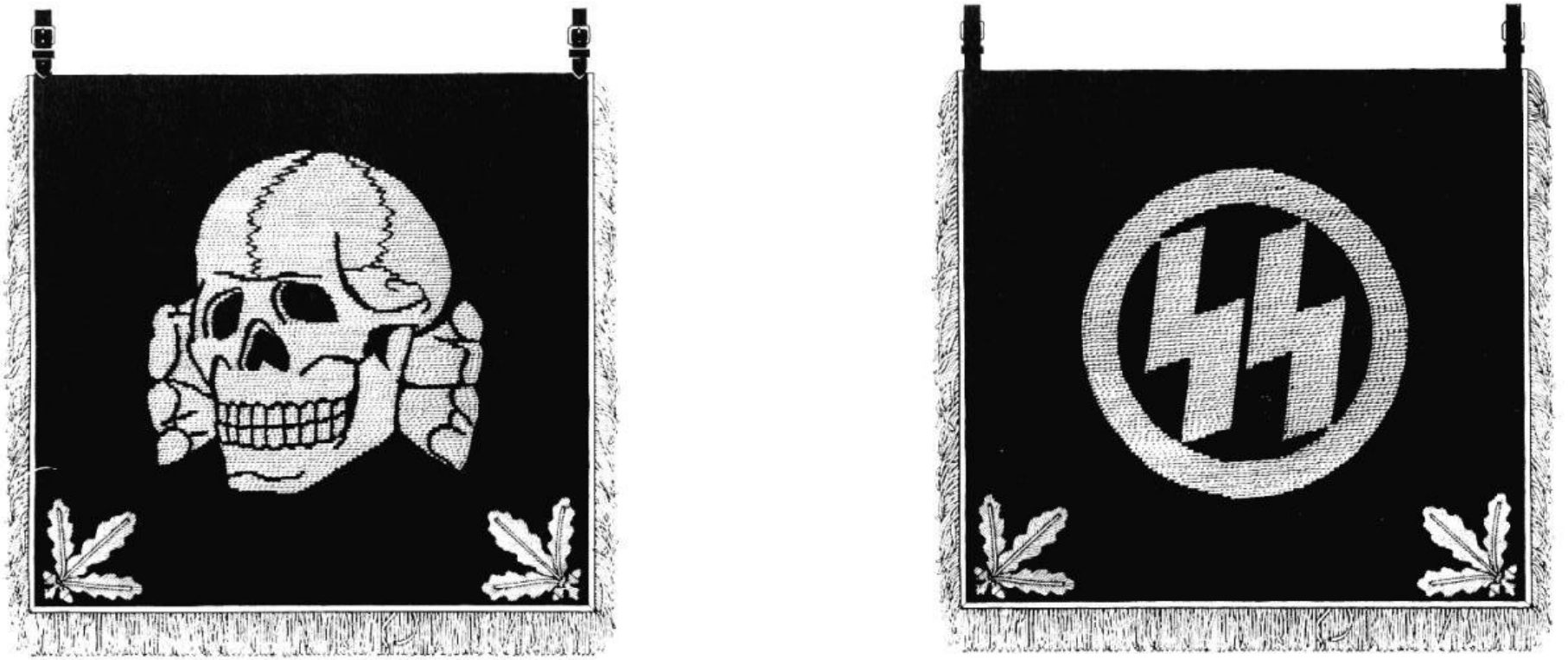
1. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 29.,15.12.34. p 12.
2. Mitteilungsblatt der RZM. No. 4.,15.2.36. p 49.
3. Wort und Brauchtum des Soldaten. p 127.
4. Das Schwarze Korps. No. 51.,17.12.36. p 4.
5. 1933 Das Jahr der Deutschen. p 91

Drummer's equipment with drum and drum stick and first pattern "swallow's nests" for corps of drums and drum major: see rear endpaper.




36-SS-Standarte
Danzig


12 SS Standarte



Obverse and reverse of typical SS Trumpet banner.

"Schellenbaum" of the 36th SS Foot Regiment (Danzig).

"Schellenbaum" of the 12th SS Foot Regiment (Hannover) which was presented to the regiment in December 1936

DIE BLUTFAHNE
The "Bloodflag"

On the 9th November 1923 Hitler's putsch to gain control of Munich was shattered by a police volley. From amongst the sixteen National Socialists that had been killed, and the others that had been wounded, a blood soaked swastika flag was taken from its dead bearer, Andreas Bauriedl. The NDSAP was banned, Hitler imprisoned, and the flag was confiscated by the Munich Police President.

On the 9th November 1926 the same flag with a new pole and top was presented to the SS-Sturm 1 (Traditionssturm) 1 SS.-Standarte (München), for safe-keeping. It had by then become one of the most honoured relics of Hitler's struggle for power. From that day on all new standards and flags were inaugurated by being touched with the "Blood Flag".1.

The funeral of Gauleiter Wagner in 1944. One of the last occasions at which the "Blood Flag" was trooped. *Scherl Bilderdienst.*

STANDARTE (FELDZEICHEN) DER SS
SS Standard

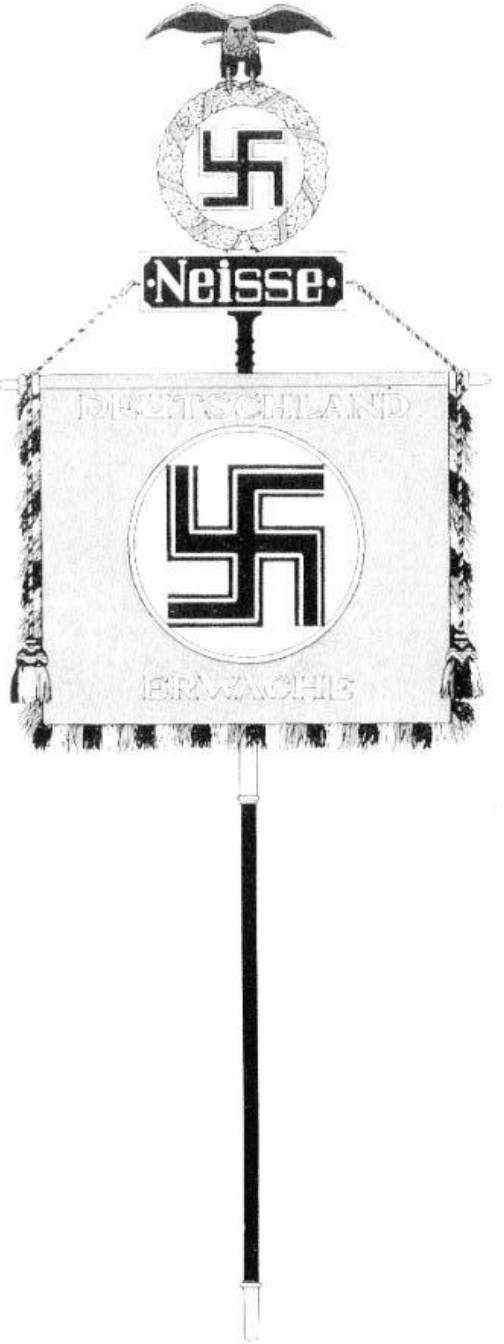
The first presentation of four SA standards took place on the 28th January 1923, on the first Party Day Rally held in Munich. It then became the custom to present new standards and flags at the annual Party Day Rally.2.

The first 8 SS standards were presented at Nuremberg, in September 1933.3.

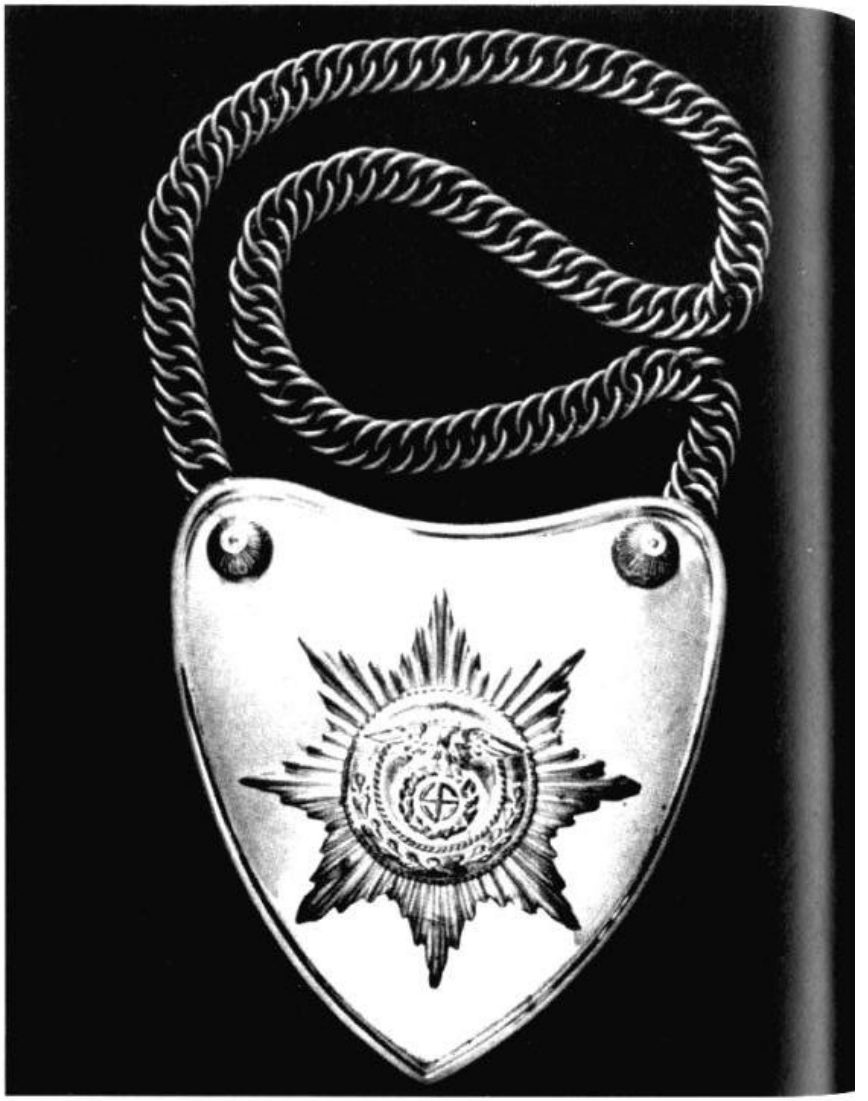
The cloth part of the standard measured 60 x 70 cms. and was edged on three sides with black and white fringe; later Black, white and red fringe. The flag was suspended from a white metal cross bar 12 x 40 cms. on the front of which were the letters NSDAP on a black ground. On the reverse was the name of the region or district to which the unit belonged, or a commemorative name. In September 1933 the letters and the name were reversed. Above the cross bar was the national emblem which consisted of a white metal oakleaf wreath with gilt binding, inside which was a black swastika 32 cms in diameter, with white metal surround. The wreath and swastika were surmounted by a gilt metal flying eagle. The overall height of the standard was 2.30 m.

The standard was trooped by the 1st battalion of an SS regiment, and carried by a cornet who was either a senior non-commissioned or junior commissioned leader.

A cornet wore a gorget, bandolier and white gloves when carrying the standard.4.



The Standard of the 45th SS Regiment (Oppeln):
see rear endpaper.

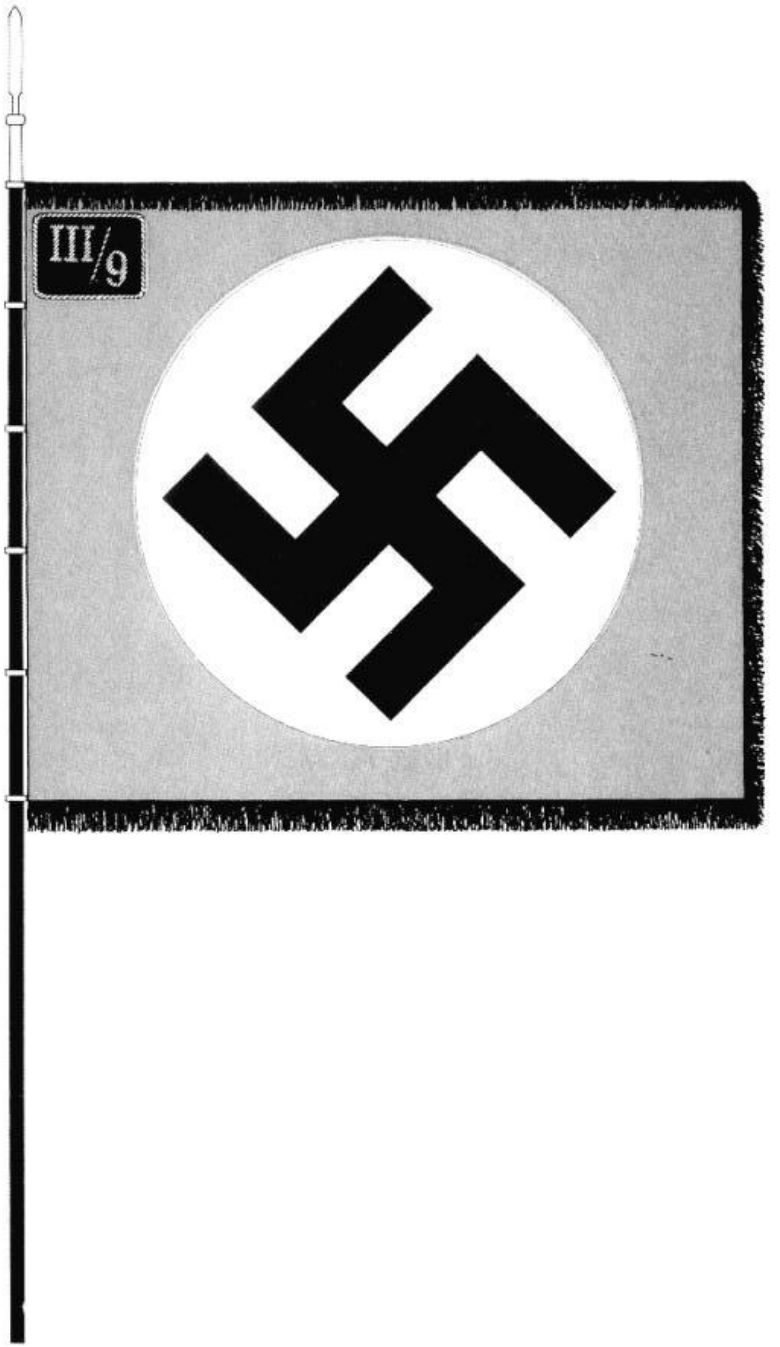


SA/SS Standard-bearer's gorget.

Massed SS Standards at the 1935 Party Day Rally.
(Planet News. Brian Davis Collection.)

SS-STURMBANNFAHNE
SS Battalion flag

The first 10 SS battalion flags were presented in 1929.
42 more were presented at Munich in November of the same year.6.
The flag measured 120 x 140 cms, and was edged on three sides with black and aluminium fringe. In the top left hand corner was a black rectangular patch 20 x 15 cms, which was edged in twisted aluminium cord, and on which was embroidered in aluminium wire the number of the battalion in roman numerals, and the regimental number in arabic numerals. The swastika rested on its side in the first pattern of the flag, but in the later pattern it stood on its point. The flag was attached to the pole by six 10 mm nickel-plated rings. The pole was made of wood polished black, and was surmounted by an aluminium lance head. If at any time a standard-bearer had been killed carrying the flag, his name and date of his death were engraved on a metal ring which was then fitted to the pole above the joint. The overall height of the flag was 3 m.
The flag was carried by a senior non-commissioned leader who wore a gorget, bandolier and white gloves. 7.

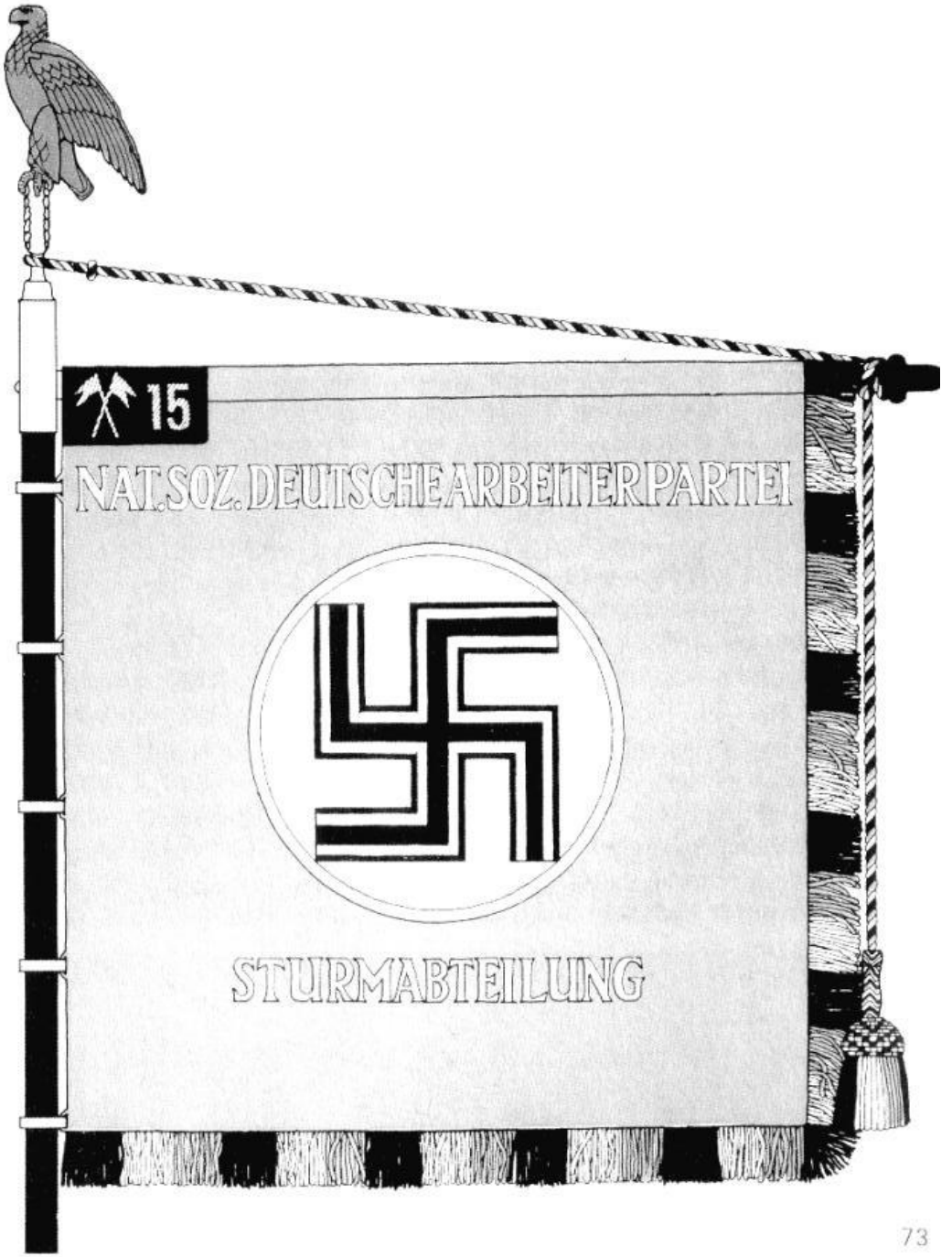


Flag of the 3rd battalion of the 9th SS Regiment (Stettin): see rear endpaper.

SS-REITERSTANDARTE
SS Cavalry standard

The first cavalry standards were presented in Munich in October 1935.8. It was carried by a junior commissioned, or senior non-commissioned leader, who wore a gorget, special knee length black leather bandolier and white gloves or gauntlets.9.

1. Das Schwarze Korps. No. 29.,19.10.35. p 5.
2. Uniformen des Braunhemden. p 15.
3. Uniformen das Braunhemden. pp 84-86.
4. Uniformen der Braunhemden. pp 85 & 88.
5. Das Schwarze Korps. No. 31.,3.10.35. p 1.
6. Das Schwarze Korps. No. 37.,14.11 35. p 5.



Standard of the 15th Cavalry Regiment (Munich): see rear endpaper.

New battalion flags being inaugurated by Adolf Hitler, at the 1938 Party Day Rally. The standard bearer is wearing the newly introduced gorget and bandolier. *(Heinrich Hoffman)*

SS Standard-bearer at the 1933 Party Day Rally held at Nuremberg. He wears the SA/SS standard-bearers gorget. *(Friedrich Bauer.)*

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ADDENDA

Page 2 In the caption to the illustration reproduced on p.4 the names "Maurer (Maurice?)" should be replaced by that of Rudolf Hess. I am grateful to Dr. Raiber of Hockessin, Delaware, for pointing out to me that the figure deleted from the photograph, third from left, is in fact Hess.
In the caption to the illustration reproduced on p.6 Maurer's name should be replaced by that of Rudolf Hess, and the figure speaking to Hitler is definitely Christian Weber.

Page 11 Appearing in this illustration, from left to right, are Fritz Weitzel, Heinz Prutzmann, Werner Lorenz, Himmler and Schmitt.

Page 12 The SS Cloak was for wear off duty only.
The SS Mess Dress was also often worn with white shirt. The missing footnote is: SS-Befehlsblatt, No 7, 15 June 1934, p.2.
The SS Evening Dress trousers had white and not aluminium braid with black stripes.

Page 13 The illustration on the left, of formal evening dress for SS leaders, is from the 1940 edition of the SS-Kleiderkasse catalogue, and is incorrect insofar as it omits the twisted aluminium cord around the top of the cuffs and the top and bottom edges of the SS brassard.
The illustration on the right was drawn by Malcolm McGregor in the same style as utilized in the SS-Kleiderkasse catalogue.

Page 14 The right to wear the SS brassard could be withdrawn for disciplinary reasons. See Heinz Hohne's ORDER OF THE DEATH'S HEAD, p.27.

Page 15 SS Service peaked caps with aluminium cords could also be worn by Oberjunker of the Sanitäts Abteilungen. See RFSS Microfilm T-158, Frame 2688675.

Page 20 Following Ernst Röhm's demise and prior to Himmler's appointment as Reichsführer-SS, Himmler and his personal staff wore white collar patches.

Page 26 Plate 3, Fig.5. The metal oakleaf badge on the Reichsführer-SS shoulder cord is too big.

Page 38 Plate 8. Armbands with coloured stripes were abolished in June 1937.

Page 46 SS Pioneer units originally came under command of an SS-Abschnitt and wore the Abschnitt number on the right collar patch, but it was later changed to the battalion number.

Page 50 The aiguillette for SS Honorary Leaders did not resemble the 1938 pattern for SS leaders, but was of special design.

Page 56 The missing footnotes are:
1. Befehlsblatt der RFSS, No 6517, 14 September 1933.
2. SS-Befehlsblatt, No 7, 15 June 1934, p.2, para.11.

Page 67 The trumpet banner illustrated is thought not to have been Allgemeine-SS, but SS-Verfügungstruppe—possibly SS-Standarte "Germania".

Page 71 The drawing of the finial on the SS battalion colour is not a good representation.

Page 73 The missing footnotes are:
7. SS-Befehlsblatt, Jahrgang 6, 25 October 1938, para.11.
8. Das Schwarze Korps, No.31, 3 October 1935, p.1.
9. See Reichstagung in Nürnberg, 1936, p.313.

See page 73

See page 71

See page 69

See page 65

See page 14

See page 49